BUSINESS / B1
Foreign investments treble in 1st half but pale compared to neighbors

NEWS / A4
Pinay accused in Singapore murder incommunicado

METRO / A23
Terror angle ruled out in ammo dump blast in Taguig

WORLD / A12
US disaster agency chief quits under siege over response to Katrina

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VI
Wednesday, September 14, 2005 ★★ 64 pages / 6 sections / Vol. 20 /
email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph
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SWS survey says 74% believe Noli can be No. 1

SI NOLI NA LANG ANG DI BILIB SA SARILI!

THE IDEA OF A President Noli de Castro seems to be gaining ground nationwide, if survey results released by the Social Weather Stations are any indication.

The polling outfit's

SWS SURVEY/ A21

Gov't seeks US funding for Cha-cha, paper shows

By Philip C. Tubeza

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO'S Administration is seeking US funding for its plans to amend the Constitution and shift the country to a parliamentary system, according to an agreement signed by National Security

GOV'T/ A10

FBI arrests Lacson aide for espionage

Probers found 101 RP-related documents

By Volt Contreras, Margaux Ortiz and Armand Nocum

MICHAEL RAY AQUINO, A FORMER high police official indicted for the murder of publicist Salvador "Bubby" Dacer and his driver in November 2000, was arrested Saturday in New York on espionage charges.

Also arrested with Aquino, a close associate of Sen. Panfilo Lacson, was a Federal Bureau of Investigation intelligence analyst.

The analyst, Leandro Aragoncillo, who had top-secret clearance and who worked at a New Jersey US Army base, has been charged with passing classified information about Filipino leaders to Aquino who passed it on to current and former officials of the Philippines, according to an FBI complaint made public on Monday.

US officials made a public disclosure of the espionage case on the same day President Macapagal-Arroyo arrived in the United States to preside over a UN Security Council

FBI ARRESTS/ A22

MICHAEL RAY AQUINO: Who was he spying for?

SEN. PING LACSON: Don't politicize issue. JESS YUSON

Lacson expects gov't to link him to case

By TJ Burgonio, Norman Bordadora and Christine O. Avendaño

OPPOSITION SEN. PANFILO "Ping" Lacson yesterday acknowledged receiving e-mails from his former aide, Michael Ray Aquino, since January this year, but he said these were mostly compilations of articles and "gossip" about the political situation in the country.

The senator, who has joined street protests calling for President Macapagal-Arroyo's ouster over allegations of electoral fraud, said he expected the government's spin doctors to link him to the case.

"The government officials' statements seem headed in my direction," he said.

"I warn NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco not to politicize the unfortunate matter concerning fellow Filipinos, similar to what he did in several issues, which are mere figments of his maliciously

LACSON/ A22

PDI PHOTO

INQUIRER'S FILIPINO OF THE YEAR in 1992, Haydee Yorac is now a woman for all the seasons of grace.

Remembered with love and thanksgiving

HAYDEE YORAC, FORMER CHAIR OF THE Commission on Elections and the Presidential Commission on Good Government, died of kidney failure and other complications of ovarian cancer yesterday morning at St. Francis Hospital in Chicago, Illinois.

Yorac, 64, had been confined at the hospital since last week, according to Felicidad Aquino-Arroyo, her law partner. Arroyo said she spoke on Friday with Yorac, who "sounded happy" and assured her that she

REMEMBERED/ A8

'Let justice be done though the heavens fall'

By Ma. Ceres P. Doyo

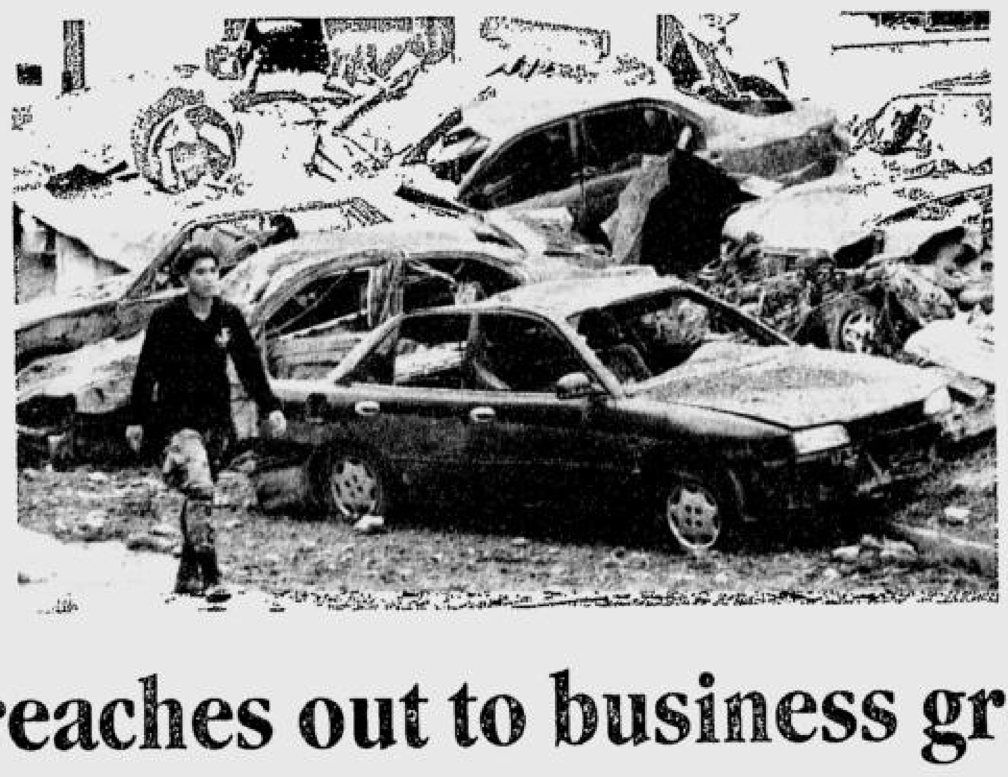
UNTIL THE END, HAYDEE BOFILL Yorac's life was marked by her favorite Latin maxim, *Fiat justitia ruat caelum* (Let justice be done though the heavens fall).

And she made her mark as an exemplary public servant, lawyer, nationalist, intellectual, teacher and human rights activist—even, as she once described herself, "a natural-born anarchist."

It was during her watch as chair of the Presidential Commission on Good Government that it scored stunning victories in its task of recovering the billion-dollar Marcos wealth and the coconut levy funds collected from poor farmers during the martial

LET JUSTICE/ A8

ARMORY BLAST
Accident or terror attack? An investigation is under way into the mysterious explosions that rocked the armory inside Camp Bagong Diwa in Taguig City Monday night. The blasts destroyed vehicles and rained debris on houses nearby. *(Story on Page A23)*
REM ZAMORA



Bishops warn vs excessive politicking; Palace elated

By Christian V. Esguerra

IN THE FIRST OFFICIAL REACTION TO THE quashing of a move to unseat President Macapagal-Arroyo, Catholic bishops yesterday called for a continued search for truth within the rule of law, but warned against the "excessive politicking" that had divided the nation and worsened poverty.

The pastoral statement by the permanent council of the influential Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines appeared to deal a serious setback to opposition efforts to bring to the streets the case for election fraud against Ms Arroyo.

Ex-President Corazon Aquino, who was swept to power in a peaceful popular uprising that ousted the dictator Ferdinand Marcos in 1986, is spearheading the opposition initiative to mount protests. It has so far elicited only a lukewarm response.

"We should now move forward and address the more important and urgent problem of the grinding poverty of our people—poverty which has, to a considerable extent, been caused by excessive politicking," the CBCP statement said.

"Let us not further contribute to this poverty by our inordinate involvement in activities

BISHOPS/ A10

GMA reaches out to business groups

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

NEW YORK (Via PLDT)—SPURNED by the opposition in her bid for reconciliation, President Macapagal-Arroyo is reaching out to business groups to keep the economy on course despite the political turmoil at home, a top Malacañang source said yesterday.

The source said the administration had reached common ground with business groups led by, among others, former Prime Minister Cesar Virata to help Ms Arroyo achieve her economic targets.

Virata is among the latest batch of senior business advisers to Ms Arroyo that also include Tessie Sy-Coson, Oscar Hilado, Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala, and Washington Sycip, said the source, who requested anonymity.

Ms Arroyo is scheduled to arrive in nearby New Jersey at 4:05 a.m. Tuesday (New York time) on her way to New York where she will preside over a United Nations Security Council meeting tomorrow.

The source said Ms Arroyo's economic managers, led by Finance Secretary Margarito Teves, had agreed to adopt the economic blueprint forged by his predecessor, resigned Finance Secretary and former SGV chair Cesar Purisima.

In a meeting facilitated by Sycip, Teves indicated that the new economic management team did not have any qualms about acting as a mere facilitator of a unified set of goals, both in the short and long terms, aimed at muffling the political noise currently jarring foreign investors.

Teves reportedly met with Purisima shortly after the latter led the so-called "Hyatt 10" group of Cabinet secretaries and officials in a mass resignation on July 8.

In the past few weeks, Teves had also met with other key business figures, both critical and supportive of the administration,

GMA REACHES/ A20

PHILIPPINES
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BIG APPLE BITES: A rally is held in front of the RP consulate on Fifth Avenue.

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Continued moderate to heavy rains brought about by a developing low-pressure area, estimated at 650 km east of the Bicol region, may trigger landslides and flash floods over the provinces of Eastern Luzon, Visayas and Northeastern Mindanao.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY JAMIE ALARCON, PDI RESEARCH/09/13/05

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

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Second **FRONT PAGE**

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'Jueteng' renegades persist

By Jerry E. Esplanada

"RENEGADE" JUETENG OPERators in at least four Luzon provinces have ignored the Arroyo administration's Sept. 15 deadline to totally eradicate the illegal numbers game.

Yesterday, Puerto Princesa City Mayor Edward Hagedorn, the government's anti-jueteng czar, told the INQUIRER "jueteng operations in 39 provinces in Regions 1 to 5 plus the Cordillera Administrative Region and Metro Manila were close to zero."

Taking a break from the 2nd Asian Cities Against Drugs summit which the Palawan capital is hosting this year, Hagedorn said in a phone interview they were "confident in achieving total jueteng eradication (today)."

'Jueteng hotspots'

The government task force is "closely monitoring all jueteng hotspots, suspected operators and their political backers in Luzon," Hagedorn said.

Last weekend, Hagedorn said the police and local government units-backed task force was "zeroing in on guerrilla-type jueteng."

To elude arrest, jueteng operators have resorted to guerrilla or "kangaroo" tactics in the Batangas towns of Cuenca and Alitagtag and "remote parts" of the provinces of Quezon, Bulacan and Camarines Sur, among others, he disclosed.

The task force is closely monitoring all suspected jueteng operators and their alleged political backers, said Hagedorn.

"Our marching order is to totally eradicate jueteng. Making sure it will not seep back, especially in the game's usual hotspots, is also part of the task force's game plan," he asserted.

Aside from Hagedorn, the task force also groups Local Government Sec. Angelo Reyes, LMP president Mayor Ramon Guico Jr. (of Binalonan, Pangasinan), League of Cities of the Philippines president Mayor Gerry Treñas (of Iloilo City), and the chair of the National Police Commission.

Based on task force estimates, a little more than four million people (in Regions 1 to 5 plus Metro Manila and the Cordillera Administrative Region) bet on jueteng at any given time.

Job opportunities

Meanwhile, some Batangas folk displaced by the anti-jueteng drive have asked the government to provide them with job opportunities.

An undisclosed number of jueteng *kubrador* (bet collectors) have turned to peddling shabu and other illegal drugs, some mayors belonging to the League of Municipalities of the Philippines told Hagedorn.

"Some have joined the communist rebel movement," said one of the local executives, who along with other LMP members called for "remedial measures to address this jueteng-related labor problem."

According to Hagedorn, "some mayors have approached me, expressing their fear that unless immediate remedial action is made they may not be able to stop its resurgence."

Illegal logging continues in 14 regions – Defensor

By Blanche S. Rivera

ENVIRONMENT SECRETARY Michael T. Defensor yesterday admitted that despite the existing log ban in 14 of the 16 regions in the country, illegal loggers have continued their operations.

"Yes, that's really true," Defensor replied after he was asked on the veracity of a report by the World Wildlife Fund that logging occurs even in protected areas.

"We really need to strengthen the law because these logging operators do it over and over again because the penalty is small," he said.

Members of the Philippine Army seized P10 million worth of lumber in Mauban, Quezon which is emerging as a hot spot for illegal logging operations.

DEFENSOR

Illegal logs

Defensor said he was informed by the military that a 10-wheeler truck was stopped, and subsequent operations yielded illegal logs in a storehouse in Mauban.

The army swooped down on an alleged hideout of suspected New People's Army rebels in Sitio Piapi, barangay Cagsaay III, and seized 100,000 board feet of lumber, according to initial media reports.

"There are really unscrupulous members of the community, financiers, people from outside who continue to ply the trade because they earn so much, especially with high cost of wood nowadays," Defensor said in a press briefing.

A month ago, a team from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources seized P4.2 million worth of hard wood in Mauban.

Defensor said he would ask Philippine National Police chief Arturo Lomibao to relieve and replace the entire police force in Mauban, Quezon due to the continued logging in the area.

"It's a very small place. It's impossible that they do not know about the logging operations," he said.

He said the DENR would also reinforce its intelligence operations to curb illegal logging. It would also intensify the surveillance of waterways through which the logs are transported.

As this developed, the local government of Taytay has asked the DENR to lift the log ban in the municipality which has adversely affected its woodworks industry.

In a resolution, the municipal council sought the exemption of Taytay from the log ban.

The council said the wood and sash industries in Taytay, which have been the main livelihood of the community for over a century, were fast fading.

"Granting an exemption from the total log ban will give lift to the dying wood and sash industry of Taytay, Rizal and give additional work to the community..." resolution No. 124 said.

There are 56 woodworks firms in Taytay registered with the DENR. These firms produce furniture and handicrafts.

Submission of resolution

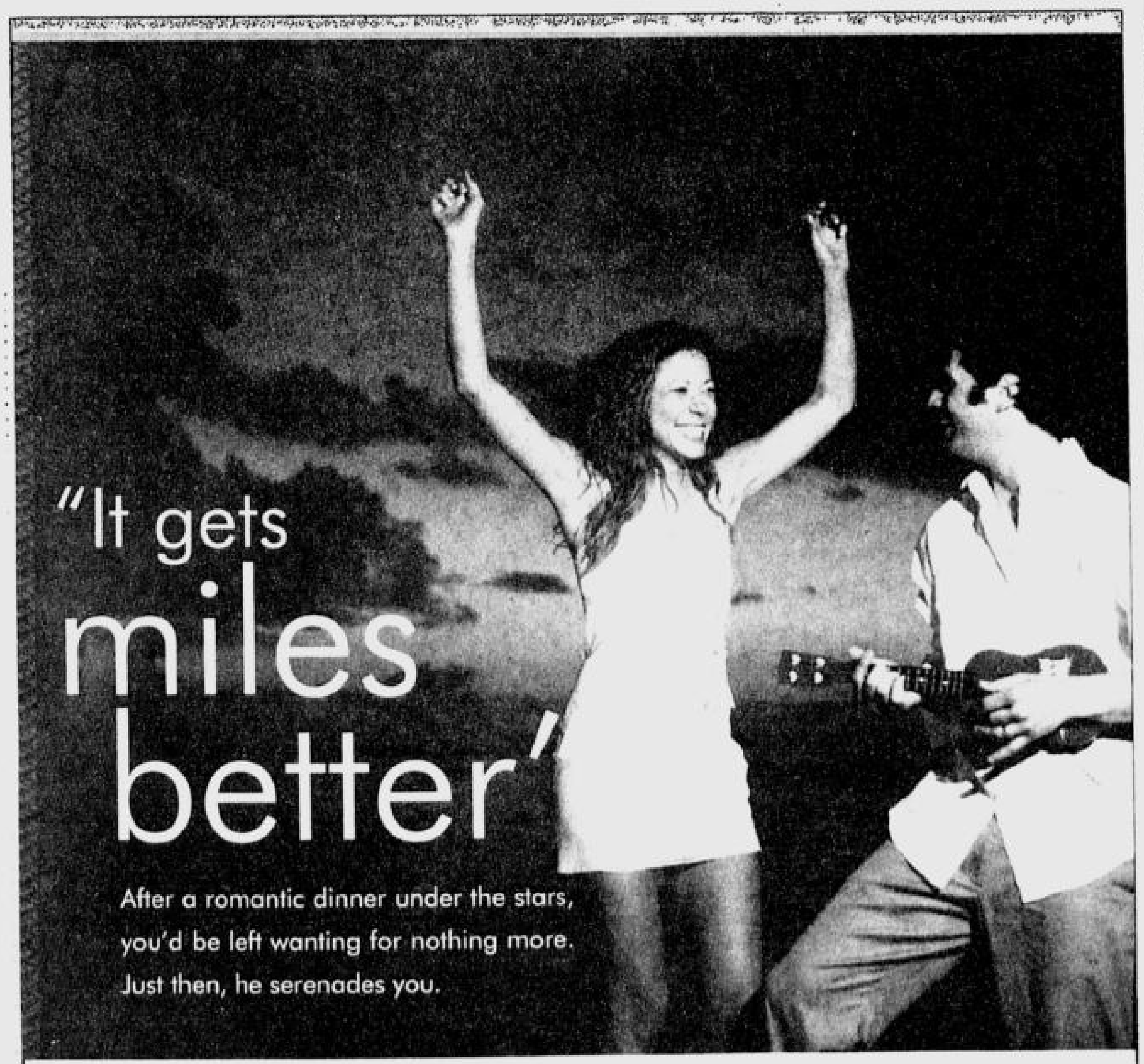
The resolution was submitted to President Macapagal-Arroyo and Environment Secretary Michael T. Defensor.

But the DENR appears bent on enforcing the log ban in Rizal.

A DENR team led by Defensor himself yesterday seized 8,511 board feet of narra worth P1.3 million from Genesis Woodworks Inc. in barangay San Isidro.

Defensor said the owner presented photocopied papers supposedly from the Department of Trade and Industry allowing it to source the timber, but the papers were not valid.

The team also found timber-cutting equipment and a sawmill facility inside the GWI compound. The owner would also be charged for operating a saw mill without a permit from the DENR.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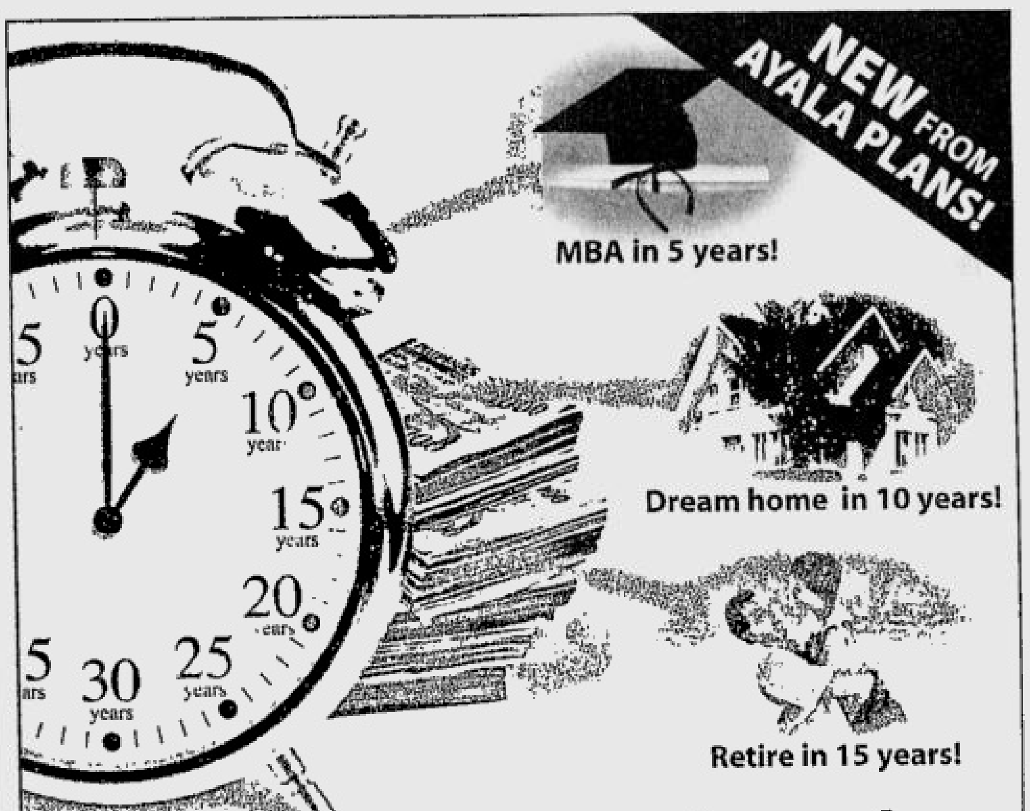

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Noli appeals for ceasefire while GMA presides over Security Council

By Cynthia D. Balana

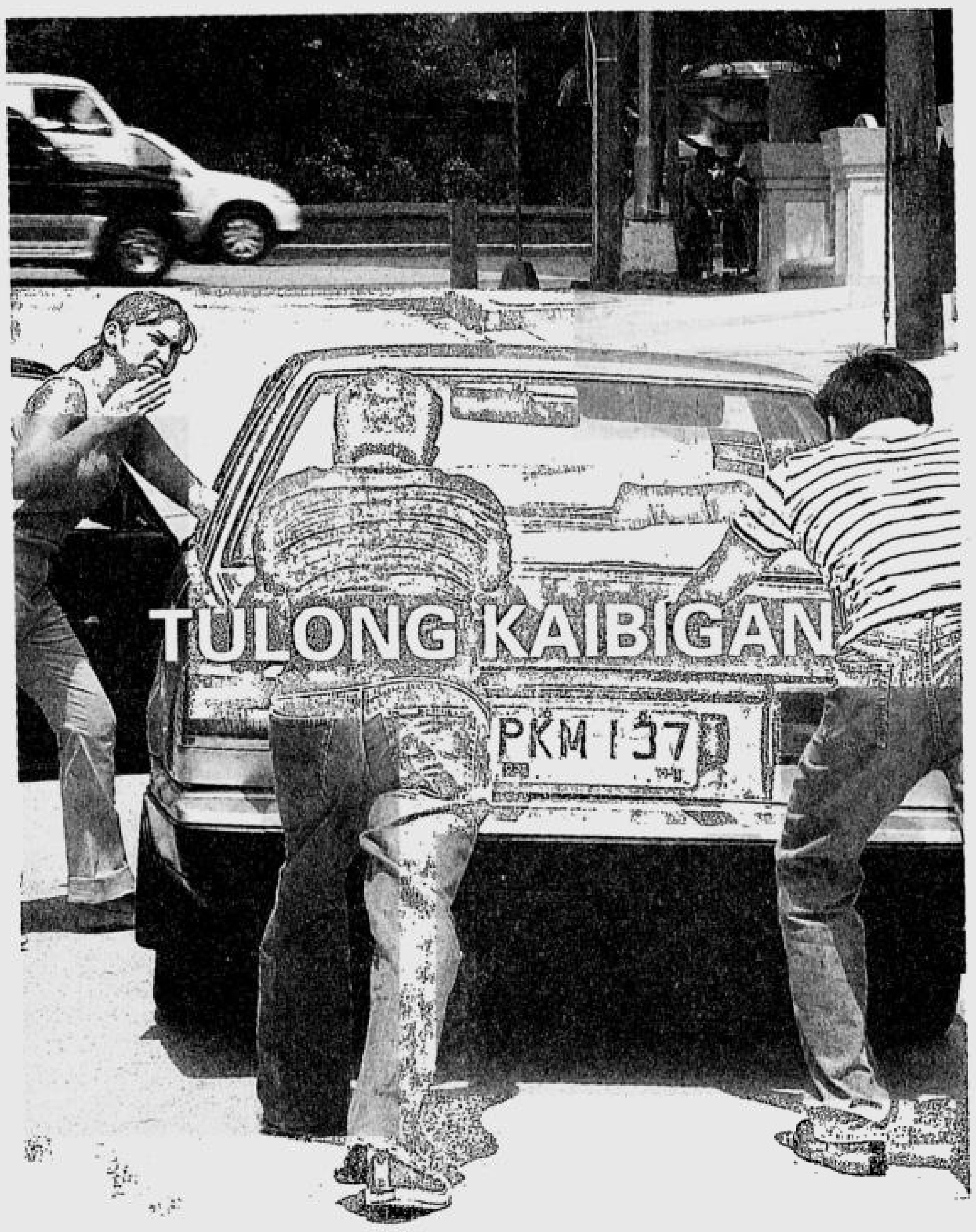
VICE PRESIDENT NOLI DE Castro yesterday asked for a ceasefire on the attacks against President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo from her critics and instead appealed for support as she embarks on a historic journey to the United Nations Headquarters in New York City, USA where she will speak before the UN Security Council.

De Castro, the designated government caretaker, said the President needed all the support and prayers from Filipinos when she represents the Philippines before world leaders to commemorate the 60th founding anniversary of the UN.

He said Ms Arroyo will address the UN Security Council, the highest and most powerful UN organ, where issues such as rising oil prices and terrorism are significant to the Philippines.

He also said that the President will attempt to convince foreign investors to put their money into the country to prop up investments and create jobs here.

"I wish the President all the best and I encourage all Filipinos to support her as she represents our country and each one of us in this gathering of world leaders," the Vice President said.



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OFW dollars don't reach poor–ADB

BILLIONS OF DOLLARS OF CASH TRANSFERS from the Philippines' huge overseas work force have largely bypassed the nation's poor, according to the Asian Development Bank (ADB).

While the money has boosted personal consumption, the main driver of its economy, the overall impact is patchy, with more prosperous areas of the country and higher-income families receiving the lion's share, it said.

"The poorer segment of Philippine society has been largely excluded from the opportunities provided by migration, and OFWs (overseas Filipino workers) tend to come from less poor regions," the Manila-based lender said in a report.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas says around eight million overseas Filipinos—nearly a 10th of the population—will send home $9.4 billion this year via formal banking channels, up 10 percent from last year's levels.

The country is the third highest recipient of remittances, behind Mexico and India.

The ADB, however, estimates that the actual level of remittances will be about three times the official amount, with overseas workers using other, informal means of transfer.

It found that despite sustained GDP growth in the four years to 2003, real average family incomes in the Philippines have fallen 10 percent, with the total income of the poorest 10th of the population having stagnated.

About 44.1 percent of Filipinos earned no more than a dollar a day in 2003. *AFP*

THE INNOCENTS. Edwin Aguilar, husband of Singapore murder suspect Guen Garlejo Aguilar, and their two children look at the photo of the OFW who is now detained in Singapore for the killing of her best friend, Jane Parangan La Puebla. Jane's body was chopped up and the parts were found in different places in Singapore.

LEONCIO G. BALBIN/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

Pinay in Singapore slay incommunicado

By Jerome Aning

A FORMER ENVOY YESTERDAY SAID THE Philippine government should protest the Singaporean authorities' holding of Filipino murder suspect Guen Garlejo Aguilar incommunicado for one week, saying this violated international law.

"We must not just take this sitting down; they don't have the right to do that. She should have access to her lawyer and our embassy officials at all times," former Ambassador to the United Arab Emirates Roy Señeres told the INQUIRER.

A domestic helper, Aguilar, 29, is a suspect in the killing of Jane Parangan La Puebla, 26, another Filipino maid who was reportedly her best friend. La Puebla's body was chopped up and the parts were found in two locations in Singapore. Initial reports said the two had quarreled over a Singaporean taxi driver.

Aguilar was formally charged with the murder before a Singaporean court on Sunday, two days after her arrest. The Department of Foreign Affairs said it had hired lawyers for both.

A Singaporean magistrate acceded to the police request for Aguilar to be held one week for "further investigation" before being allowed access to counsel.

Señeres called on the Department of Foreign Affairs to protest the magistrate's order and to summon the Singaporean ambassador in Manila to "assert our rights."

He said the 1963 Vienna Convention on Consular Relations, to which both Singapore and the Philippines are signatories, gives consular officials access to their nationals who are in prison at all times.

The militant overseas workers group Migrante International agreed with Señeres, saying the DFA "started on the wrong foot" in its defense of Aguilar. It also expressed dismay at the Philippine government's acceptance of the judge's order.

"In criminal cases, the right to competent legal counsel cannot be denied the accused at any stage. What the Singapore judge did was not the least bit normal," Migrante secretary general Maita Santiago said.

Señeres was the ambassador to the UAE who facilitated the release from prison of Filipino domestic Sarah Balabagan, who was accused of killing her employer who had tried to rape her.

The Singaporean Ministry of Foreign Affairs, meanwhile, invited Manila to send over a pathologist to observe the autopsy on the remains of La Puebla.

Foreign Undersecretary Jose Brillantes said he was "grateful for the invitation (for) it shows the closeness of our bilateral relations and mutual desire for a speedy and judicious resolution of this case."

Also yesterday, the DFA said it was ready to fly Aguilar's husband and son to Singapore "at the appropriate time" to allow them to be with her.

The National Bureau of Investigation, meanwhile, sent agents to Tagudin, Ilocos Sur, to get statements from Aguilar's family, according to NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco.

"We are not sure what would come out of it, but we would compare notes with our Singaporean counterparts," Wycoco said. *With Volt Contreras and Margaux Ortiz*

Jane was friendly, generous

By Melvin Gascon and Leoncio Balbin Jr.
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGABAG, NUEVA VIZCAYA—THE FAMILY of Jane Parangan La Puebla always took pride whenever people described her as a friendly, generous person.

So it came as a shock that despite her kindness, she met a gruesome death allegedly at the hands of her best friend.

La Puebla, 26, was killed allegedly by another overseas Filipino worker, Guen Garlejo Aguilar, 29, who was charged with her murder in a Singapore court on Monday. If convicted, Aguilar faces death by hanging.

Grief over La Puebla's killing had not yet set in among her family on Monday when the INQUIRER visited, as they were more preoccupied with bringing her remains back home to Barangay Tuao South here.

Will all her body parts be found? Should her remains be cremated? Will they receive government help?

Joe Parangan, an uncle and her surrogate father, said the last time the family talked to La Puebla was on Sept. 8 when she asked to talk to every one of them.

"The way she talked, all seemed well. She sounded happy and excited, as usual," Parangan said.

Merlyn Dominguez, La Puebla's aunt, recalled her niece mentioning during the call that she was about to step out to see some people who owed her money. Among these supposedly was Aguilar.

"She said she had to collect the money because she needed it badly," Dominguez said. "We were told (by another OFW in Singapore) that prior to the killing, she and Aguilar had a quarrel over the latter's debt."

La Puebla's sister, Julie Fe Parangan, 25, said that during the phone call her sister did not show any signs of being in distress.

"She said she was coming home for Christmas. She promised to pay for a vehicle to take the family to the airport to fetch her," Julie Fe added.

La Puebla's relatives said that in 2001, while applying to work overseas, La Puebla and Aguilar became close friends.

The family, however, was inclined to believe the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration's claim that she was an undocumented OFW.

"We never knew her exact address [in Singapore]. We could not call her where she stayed; it was always she who called us," said Julie Fe.

La Puebla was the elder of two daughters of Army Pfc. Antonio Parangan who was killed by rebels in Mindanao in 1980.

Upon their father's death and their mother's remarriage, the sisters lived with their father's siblings in Barangay Tuao South.

In 2001, La Puebla decided to go to Singapore, leaving her husband Eddie and their son Clifford Jan, then 5, behind.

But less than a year later, Eddie with Clifford left their house in Tuao South and went to live in Barangay Almaguer North, 27 km away.

In 2003, family members said La Puebla told them her husband had married someone else "because she was not coming home anymore."

"We asked the husband about it and he denied it," Dominguez said.

In Tagudin, Ilocos Sur, Edwin Aguilar, Guen's husband, said he could not believe his wife had killed her best friend.

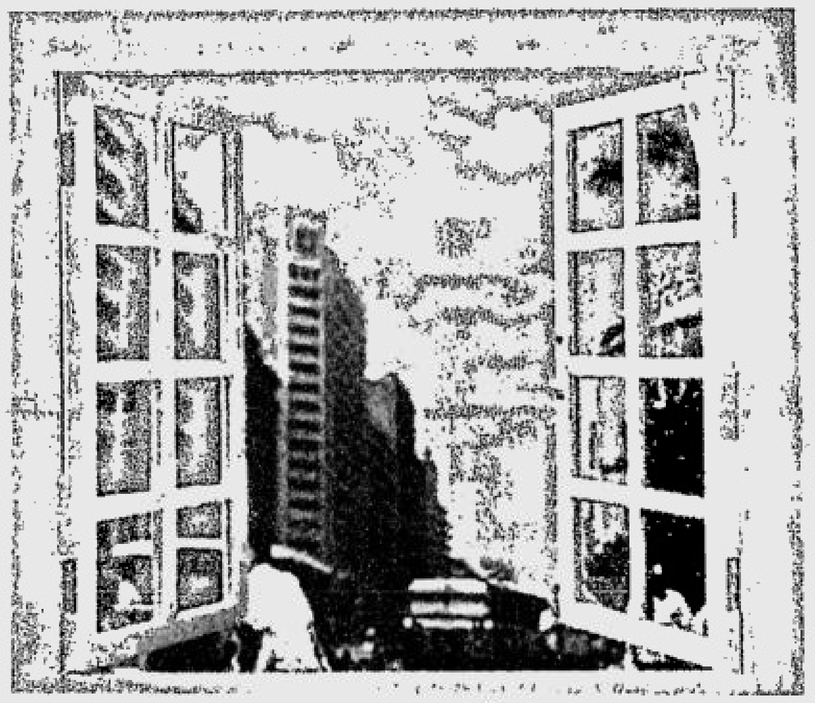
"*Diak pulos pattien. Di na maaramid ti maysa a babai didiay ta na-brutal unay.* (I would never believe it. A woman cannot do such a thing; it was so brutal)," Edwin told the INQUIRER on Tuesday.

He said he was worried for his wife, who is being held in a Singapore jail.

"I am extremely worried about her situation because I do not know her condition," he said.

He said he did not believe the rift between his wife and La Puebla was caused by a fight over a Singaporean taxi driver.

When a door closes, a window opens ....



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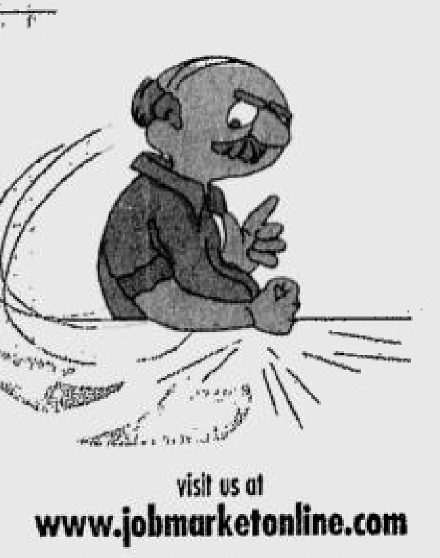

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Stat exec denies fudging trade figures

A SENIOR official yesterday denied suggestions that the government had cooked up its trade figures for 2002-2004, which were then revised last month to reveal a far worse picture of the Philippine economy than first thought.

"Revision of official statistics is standard fare, recognized and appreciated by those who truly know," said Romulo Virola, secretary general of the National Statistical Coordination Board.

According to new figures issued by the National Statistics Office last month, the 2004 trade deficit was 4.36 billion dollars rather than the previously stated 713 million dollars.

The 2003 deficit was revised to 4.24 billion dollars from the previously given 1.27 billion dollars while for 2002, it was revised to 4.03 billion dollars from 218 million dollars.

In 2003 the government had also revised its previously released import figures for the three years to 2002.

"Concerns were raised, quite understandably, about the revision of foreign trade statistics released recently," Virola said in a statement.

"Some of these concerns were articulated objectively but some, unfortunately, degenerated into convoluted accusations about cheating by government statisticians," he added.

Virola said the new 2002-2004 trade data came from a revised methodology following studies by the central bank's monetary board on the proper valuation of exports and imports, particularly of 15 electronics companies that account for much of the country's electronics exports.

"These statistics are generally released based on incomplete data/reports. Statistical offices used to be and still are being ridiculed on the long time lag in the release of statistics," the official acknowledged. *AFP*

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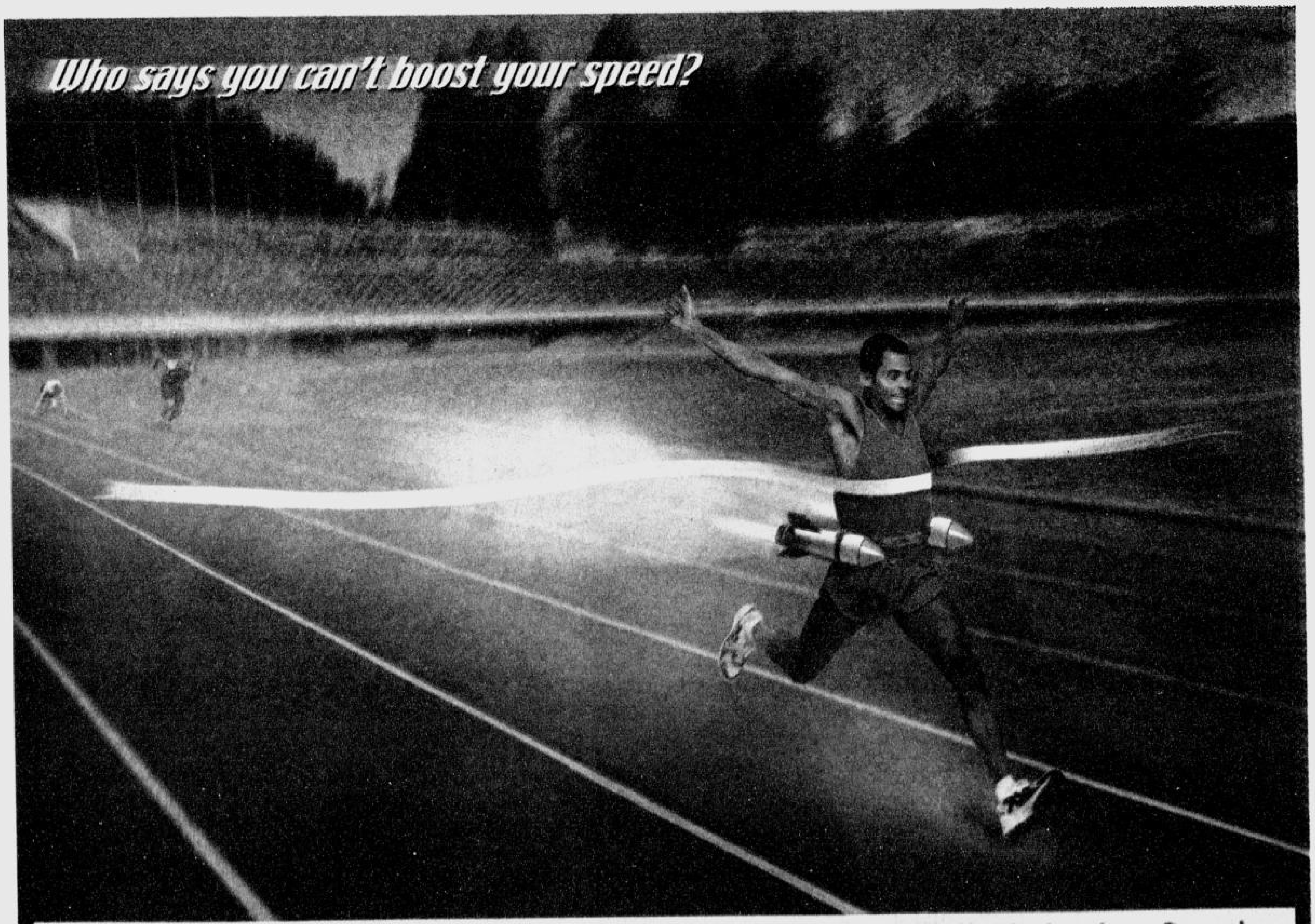
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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 4353, Series of 2005

Gov't peace panel back in Norway for real score on NDF

GOVERNMENT PEACE NEGOTIATORS are back in Norway to meet with the Norwegian officials who are mediating the peace talks between the government and communist rebels, said Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita.

Ermita said the government peace panel, led by its chair Nieves Confesor, was in Oslo to find out what the National Democratic Front's real position was after NDF leaders last week denied an announcement by the Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process that the two sides had agreed to resume formal peace talks in October.

Ermita stressed that the government has always kept the lines of communications open as far as the peace process was concerned.

He said this could not be said of the NDF, the political wing of the Communist Party of the Philippines, whose stance he described in Filipino as "*sala sa lamig, sala sa init* (neither here nor there)."

"We will have to sit down within a day or two so we can get (information) from our panel who by now have gotten to talk to the Norwegian mediators on what really is the truth on the announced position taken by the NDF," Ermita told reporters at a forum.

On Sept. 5, the government announced the agreement to restart the negotiations following informal talks with the NDF panel in Oslo from Aug. 28 to Aug. 30.

Following the announcement, the government said it would restore the safe conduct passes for the NDF negotiators that it suspended on Sept. 3.

But with the turnaround by NDF, Ermita said the government may just decide to suspend the immunity guarantees again which could mean the arrest of NDF leaders with pending cases.

"We can very well consider that again because that's the reason why we have Jasig (the Joint Agreement on the Safety and Immunity Guarantees), we want the atmosphere for the talks to be good," he said.

But Ermita said the government would talk with the Norwegian mediators before making this decision. *Christine Avendaño*

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OPEN MONDAY TO SUNDAY

This is where they put me, says RP envoy in NY

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

NEW YORK CITY—SHE HAD wanted to stay in cheaper dwellings, but when Philippine consul general Cecil Rebong got the $10,000-a-month budget for her tony apartment in the Big Apple, the former protocol officer of President Macapagal-Arroyo could not say no.

In an interview with reporters at the Philippine consulate office on 5th Avenue, New York City, Rebong said: "Honestly, I wish I had an alternative. When I came here, I was given the rate that I can only work with. I'm not new in New York. I've been here before and I know how expensive New York is and I wish I had something lower but I wasn't able to get it."

She was sharply criticized for renting a ritzy residential unit at the Trump Tower near the United Nations Building at $10,000 a month, because her official three-floor residence in a government property on upper West Side Manhattan was undergoing renovation. The criticism was made as the President appealed for belt-tightening measures among all sectors to help government cope with the budget deficit and the rising oil prices.

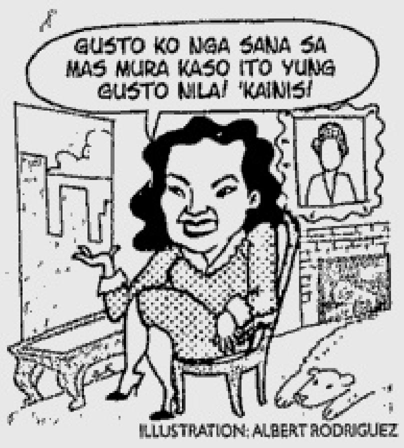

GUSTO KO NGA SANA SA MAS MURA KASO ITO YUNG GUSTO NILA! 'KAINIS!

ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

She insisted that her $10,000-a-month rent was set and approved by the Department of Foreign Affairs in Manila. "I've been with the department for 33 years, I rose from the ranks and I know our regulations. The heads of all the foreign missions are entitled to an official residence. But I only live where they assign me. We can't spend a single dollar or a single cent without the approval of the DFA," Rebong said.

She justified her palatial digs by noting that she was in the company of other diplomats, saying: "You live with the other diplomats because of restrictions."

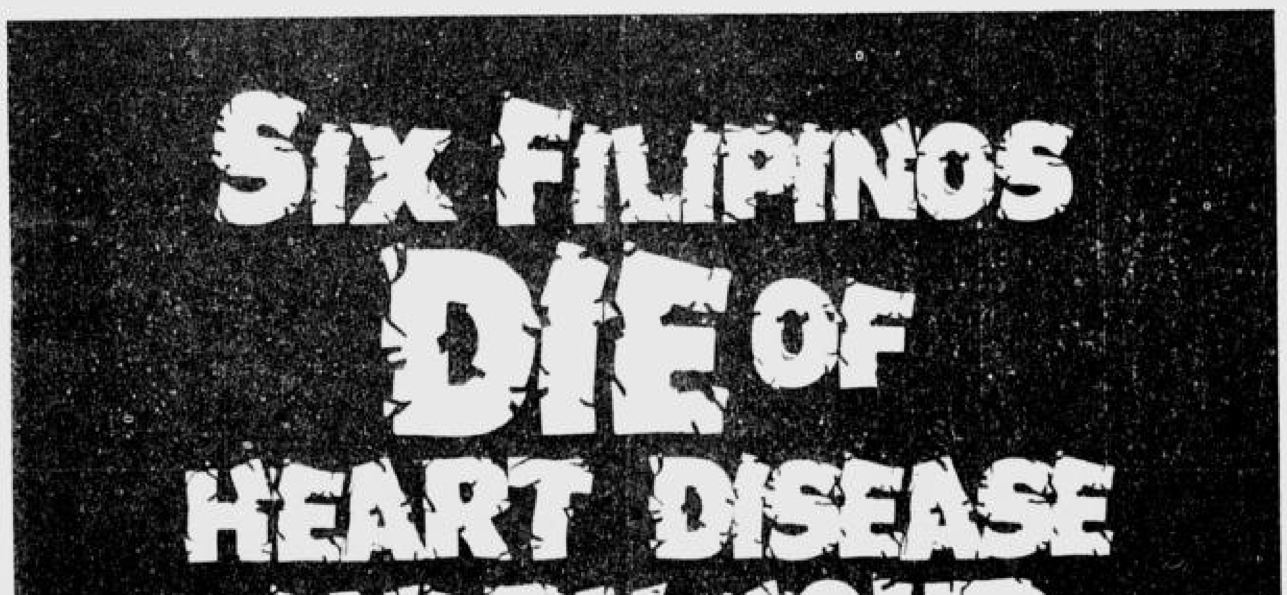
Rebong was sensitive about the issue and appealed to reporters not to make it the focus of their reports. She also wondered why she was being asked about the number of house help she had. "I have a two-bedroom apartment; we are three there," she said.

Filipinos need not fret about the issue anymore because the lease would be up soon with the completion of the renovation of the consul general's home early next year.

Rebong, however, said that bidding for the renovation has yet to start and her architects have yet to finalize the design.

Rebong said that she found the consul general's offices too small and that its renovation was the first thing she did even before her predecessor had vacated the office.

She could not say how much the DFA had allocated for the renovation but she said it would be developed as a "three-bedroom unit with a family room."



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Used car imports in Subic still worry local assemblers

By Ronnel W. Domingo, TJ Burgonio and Christine Avendaño

LOCAL VEHICLE ASSEMBLERS YESTERDAY expressed alarm as Malacañang ordered concerned departments and agencies to allow the entry of imported used vehicles into the Subic special economic zone.

Elizabeth H. Lee, vice president of the Chamber of Automotive Manufacturers of the Philippines Inc., said the order was likely to arrest the industry's already slow growth, since the sales of used vehicles had been eating into their relatively small market.

"The local industry has not even recovered from the onslaught of the Asian financial crisis (in 1997 and 1998) and here we are again facing this problem," Lee said.

She said industry sales did not even reach 90,000 units in 2004, which was just barely over half the all-time high sales level of about 160,000 units in 1996.

In a memorandum to President Macapagal-Arroyo dated Sept. 8, Chief Presidential Legal Counsel for Legal Affairs Ma. Merceditas N. Gutierrez and Senior Deputy Assistant Executive Secretary for Legal Affairs Joe Nathan P. Tenefrancia informed the Chief Executive about the order.

Gutierrez and Tenefrancia said Executive Secretary Eduardo R. Ermita had directed the departments of finance and of trade and industry, the Bureau of Customs, Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority and Land Transportation Office to allow the importation and entry of used motor vehicles with the Subic SEZ, subject only to the payment of required customs duties.

The officials added that this should be followed until the Supreme Court decided on whether such importation was allowed under the Constitution.

They said Ermita came out with the directive after the Court of Appeals denied a petition of the Office of the Solicitor General for the CA to overturn a lower court's ruling that allowed the importation and entry of used vehicles into the country.

The CA decision upheld a Mar. 10, 2004 ruling of the Olongapo City Regional Trial Court, which directed the LTO to process the registration of imported used vehicles and the SBMA to allow the vehicles' entry into the ecozone.

The Olongapo RTC ruling also declared as "unconstitutional and illegal" the provisions of Executive Order No. 156 that barred the entry and registration of imported used vehicles in the country.

The OSG has elevated the case to the Supreme Court, which has so far not decided on the matter.

New raps for Gen. Garcia

By Nelson F. Flores

THE PREDECESSOR OF CONTROVERSIAL FORmer Armed Forces finance chief Maj. Gen. Carlos Garcia, who is now on trial on illegal wealth charges, will be charged with corruption for amassing P135.28 million in ill-gotten wealth.

Ombudsman Simeon Marcelo yesterday approved the filing of unexplained wealth and perjury charges against retired AFP comptroller Lt. Gen. Jacinto Ligot and some members of his family before the Sandiganbayan anti-graft court.

Ligot, who retired in August 2004, was replaced as AFP deputy chief of staff for comptrollership (J6) in 2001 by Garcia.

Garcia, the first of several senior military officers to face graft charges, was arrested in 2004 and is now undergoing court martial and trial for plunder for allegedly taking kickbacks worth up to P303.2 million.

An investigation by the Ombudsman for the Military found Ligot, his wife Erlinda, children Paulo, Riza and Miguel, brother-in-law Edgardo Yambao, and sister Miguela Paras liable for unexplained wealth under Republic Act 1379 (Forfeiture Act), said Evelyn Baliton, the chief of the Ombudsman's Public Assistance and Corruption Prevention Office.

It was also determined that all of the accused had allegedly conspired and acted as conduit and dummies of Ligot in accumulating, using and disposing of his ill-gotten wealth.

Aside from approving the filing of charges, Marcelo filed a petition for forfeiture of Ligot's unexplained wealth amounting to P135.28 million.

Corrections

IN YESTERDAY'S issue, the story "GMA and Erap in show biz wedding" and the accompanying caption on Page A20 of the Entertainment section misstated the last name of the Rizal governor. The governor's correct name is Casimiro Ynares—not Henares. The surname of the governor's wife Nini and son Jun-Jun was also misspelled.

* * *

IN THE Sept. 8 issue, a front-page story—"It's not over, mass actions on; Palace appeals to two widows"—misstated that Reporma was the political party of the late Raul Roco. Former Defense Secretary Renato de Villa heads Reporma while Roco led Aksyon Demokratiko.

* * *

Readers may send their requests for correction of factual errors in writing to the Day Desk, Philippine Daily Inquirer, PDI Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Mascardo Street, Makati City, fax Nos. 897-47-93/94; e-mail address: daydesk@inquirer.com.ph.

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D. Gregorio; 86

DANIEL Gregorio Sr., 86, died yesterday after a lingering illness. His body lies at his residence in Tarcan, Baliuag, Bualacan. Interment will be on Saturday at Maniego Cemetery, Makinabang, Baliuag, Bulacan after the 2 p.m. Mass.

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Lawyer wants Dinky to testify for Erap in trial

By Nelson F. Flores

LAWYER RENE SAGUISAG BARED PLANS to call former Social Welfare Secretary Corazon "Dinky" Soliman before the Sandiganbayan Special Division to testify for ex-President Joseph Estrada.

Soliman helped oust Estrada from power in 2001.

Saguisag, a member of Estrada's legal defense team, said he was forced to ask Soliman to testify for Estrada after Special Prosecutor Dennis Villa-Ignacio declined to stipulate on a speech made by President Macapagal-Arroyo where she detailed events which lead to her declaration as President of the Republic.

Saguisag said the speech, delivered by Ms Arroyo on April 19, 2001 during the launching ceremony of Ahon-Bayan-Rehiyon Mindanao Project in Davao City, was evidence in support of the defense's claim that Estrada, who is facing plunder and perjury charges, was illegally relieved of power and immunity.

Villa-Ignacio said he was not in a position to accept the offer to stipulate since no one from the prosecution panel has even heard of the speech. This prompted Associate Justice Francisco Villaruz, a member of the three-man Sandiganbayan Special Division, to ask Saguisag where he got a copy of the Arroyo speech.

Saguisag said he downloaded a copy of the speech from the Internet after Malacañang repeatedly ignored his requests for a copy.

Soliman was Arroyo's first Cabinet appointee. Her designation as DSWD secretary was announced on national radio and television an hour after Arroyo took her oath at the Edsa Shrine on Jan. 20, 2000.

On July 8, Soliman resigned along with nine other cabinet officials who demanded that the President resign from office over allegations of massive poll fraud and irregularities in her administration.

According to Saguisag, a pertinent portion of the speech read: "Anyway, how did I (Ms Arroyo) become President? I mean you all know the story but let me talk about those days, Jan. 19, Jan. 20... [We] had a division of the house that dawn on the 20th... And that was when Chief Justice (Hilario) Davide said that whether Estrada resigns or not he is administering my oath of office at noon... "

Soliman's name was mentioned several times in the speech. She was even described as itching to march to Malacañang despite the danger, Saguisag said.

Meanwhile, Estrada would not be able to defend his petition for bail today since the anti-graft court deferred ruling on his motion seeking permission to testify personally.

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 4821, Series of 2005

Remembered with love and thanksgiving

From page A1

would soon be back at work.

Supreme Court Associate Justice Adolfo Azcuna told reporters that Yorac was preparing to return home, thinking that she had been cured of the disease for which she had sought treatment in the United States three months ago.

Azcuna said Yorac had phoned the people in her office, the Yorac Arroyo Chua Caedo and Coronel law firm, to say she was coming home.

"She was supposed to come back because she was reportedly well, but there were complications," said Azcuna, who was a partner at the law firm from 1993 to 2001.

Expressions of grief and admiration for Yorac came swiftly.

"She was a great public servant and a great loss to public service. We should remember her with love and thanksgiving," Azcuna said, adding that even in the throes of her ailment, Yorac was "thinking more of life rather than death."

"We lost a family member we are very proud of," said Yorac's cousin, Artemio Yorac.

He said Yorac's remains would be cremated before being flown back to Manila.

9-day mourning

The PCGG, which Yorac chaired from July 2001 to April of this year, declared a nine-day mourning period for the woman whom her coemployees described as a "principled" and "inspiring" leader.

The flag at the PCCG office in Pasig City is to fly at half-staff starting today.

In a statement, PCGG officer in charge Nicasio Conti said Yorac served "with courage, vision and conviction" in pursuit of the agency's mission to recover the Marcos wealth and the coconut levy funds.

He said Yorac left "a legacy of dedication, professionalism and integrity in public service."

"The existence of the PCGG was made more meaningful under her stewardship. Through her deeds, she affirmed the relevance of the last institution she passionately served with honor and distinction," Conti said.

PCGG information officer Nick Suarez, who has been with the agency since its beginnings in 1986, said Yorac was a leader "who stood by her principles."

"[She] inspired confidence in the officials and employees of the agency as well as the public. She was the best example of honesty in government," he said.

Last press conference

In her last press conference just before she resigned from the PCGG, Yorac said she was leaving to attend to her health and return to her law practice.

She was reported then as suffering from ovarian cancer.

At that time, the PCGG was in the news because the five government appointees to the board of San Miguel Corp. had voted in favor of the company's stock rights offering, thus diluting the government-sequestered shares in SMC.

Before she left, Yorac fired off a letter to United Coconut Planters Bank (UCPB) chair Jose Perez, pointing out that top executives of the Coconut Industry Investment Fund (CIIF) led by its president Rolando Golez were receiving millions of pesos in perks drawn from the coconut levy funds.

UCPB is the administrator of the CIIF oil mills group.

Favorite daughter

In Yorac's hometown of E.B. Magalona in Negros Occidental, flags will also fly at half-staff starting today to mourn the death of its favorite daughter.

"We lost a fighter for truth and justice," said Mayor Alfonso Gamboa of E.B. Magalona, about 24 km north of Bacolod City.

"Her uncompromising stand for truth and justice is something that the times call for. If everyone followed her example, our nation would not have the problems it is faced with today," he said.

Yorac's father, Jose, was mayor of E.B. Magalona from 1947 to 1955. Her paternal grandfather, Rufo Yorac, also served as town mayor.

According to Yorac's nephew, Stephen Paduano—also known as Carapali Lualhati, national commander of the Revolutionary Proletarian Army-Alex Boncayao Brigade—the last time he saw Yorac was last December.

No compromises

Paduano said he knew then that she was going to quit the PCGG.

"She was talking about a lot of pressure from the administration, but she did not give specifics," Paduano said.

He said he knew that if Yorac did not agree with what was being asked of her, she would not compromise and would leave.

"She stood for what was right and good for the country," he said.

Paduano described his aunt as "an honest and strict person who could not be influenced and did not use her influence for personal gain."

He said that when relatives sought her help to get work in the government, she would discourage them and tell them to get the job on their own merit.

Modern-day hero

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita expressed sadness over Yorac's passing in behalf of the government.

Ermita told a forum held at the Annabel's restaurant in Quezon City that he had the occasion to work with Yorac as early as 1992, when both of them were appointed by then President Fidel Ramos to the National Peace Commission.

Vice President Noli de Castro said Yorac led the fight against graft and corruption in the bureaucracy "with unwavering passion and integrity."

"I join the entire Filipino nation in mourning the great loss of a valuable and exemplary public servant, a true modern-day hero," he said, adding:

"May her legacy of uprightness and sincere public service live on."

Senators heap praise

Senators added their voice to the expressions of mourning.

"At a time when public opinion of government officials has sunk to an all-time low, we mourn the loss of one public servant who showed that integrity and probity among public officials is not only possible, it is [also] necessary to be truly effective," said Senate Majority Leader Francis Pangilinan.

Sen. Richard Gordon said Yorac would be "remembered and missed for her commitment and dedication to seeking justice and upholding democracy."

Sen. Manuel Villar Jr. said Yorac would be best remembered as an elections commissioner "who upheld the electoral process with the feistiness that was a trademark of her character."

"Governments and leaders have changed, but Yorac's unstinting commitment to public service remained; she was a public servant in the real sense of the word," he said.

Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr. said Yorac was "a genuine model of solid honesty and integrity in government."

According to Sen. Manuel Roxas II, Yorac was a public servant who dedicated her life to "good governance."

"She will be remembered not only for her courage, fearless views and feistiness but also for an untarnished track record while serving the government and the Filipino people," he said.

Great loss to coco farmers

PCGG Commissioner William Dichoso said Yorac was a "great loss" to the country, especially to the coconut farmers.

"She was the most honest, forthright, and competent person I have ever met. I think all are saddened by her untimely death. She has left a legacy at the commission that others will have to try their best to follow," he said.

Lawyer Rod Domingo, who represents victims of human rights abuses during martial law, said Yorac was "the epitome of good government who fought valiantly for truth and justice."

Marie Enriquez, head of the human rights group Selda, said Yorac had "the bravery and the will of no other."

Associate Justice Minita Chico-Nazario, a classmate of Yorac's at the UP College of Law, said the late PCGG chair was an "indomitable spirit" who put up "a very strong fight against the rule of oppression" during the Marcos dictatorship. *Reports from Fe Zamora, Armand N. Nocum, Alcuin Papa, TJ Burgonio, Christine O. Avendaño and Cynthia D. Balana in Manila; Carla P. Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau*

'Let justice be done though the heavens fall'

From page A1

law years.

Although steeped in the academe as a law professor at the University of the Philippines early in her career, Yorac joined the government bureaucracy on the invitation of then President Corazon Aquino, after the toppling of Ferdinand Marcos' dictatorship in 1986.

She went on to reap accolades for her work for peace and electoral reforms, her fight against corruption, and her efforts to bring justice to the oppressed and impoverished.

The INQUIRER named her Filipino of the Year in 1992.

It was Yorac's uncommon courage and integrity that put her above the rest. But she was always one to issue this reminder: "No one is indispensable. Making a difference is enough."

Impressive record

Born in Saravia, Negros Occidental, on March 3, 1941, Yorac was the eldest of seven children.

She had an impressive academic record: grade school valedictorian, high school salutatorian, UP law graduate on scholarship, eighth in the 1963 bar exam. She received her master's of law degree from Yale University in 1981.

As a young UP law instructor, Yorac became politically active and opposed the Vietnam War.

When Marcos declared martial law in 1972, she was arrested and jailed for three months.

Subsequently, she moved to the legal front, defending political detainees and joining the movement to restore democracy.

It was during Yorac's chairmanship of the Commission on Elections that Filipino soldiers posted on the Philippine-claimed islands in the Spratly chain took part in the polls.

She said the soldiers' participation in the elections would strengthen our claim to the disputed territory in the South China Sea.

She was also an expert in the Law of the Sea.

In 1992, Yorac was appointed chair of the National Unification Commission, which forged talks between the government and the communists, military rebels and other antigovernment elements.

She braved hostile areas to hold talks with armed groups.

11th PCGG chair

When Yorac was named the PCGG's 11th chair in 2001, shortly after Edsa II, only about $2 billion of the estimated $10 billion Marcos wealth had been recovered.

She strengthened her legal team, worked with other agencies, brought order to the files, and pursued hundreds of stalled legal cases.

During her watch, the PCGG recovered for the national treasury $683 million from the Marcos Swiss bank accounts. The PCGG also secured court decisions favorable to the government regarding shares worth billions of pesos in United Coconut Planters Bank and San Miguel Corp.

Yorac quit the post in April, saying she intended to rest for a while and later resume her law practice.

Hundreds of cases remain unsolved, and it was Yorac's wish to see the indemnification of the 10,000 victims of human rights abuse during martial law, claimants to part of the looted wealth during the dictatorship.

A natural

Yorac was a natural—media novelty in a bland milieu.

She was quotable but not profuse. Her mind worked more than her mouth. She had wit and a sometimes acerbic sense of humor.

Her eyes had it. She had a way of staring down those who stood in the way of truth and justice.

Yorac's students at the UP College of Law quaked at her famous opening spiel: "Everything you have heard about me is true."

But deep down, she could be as sweet as her Ilonggo lilt.

She lived a simple lifestyle and never married. "I do not agree with the assumption that being married is the *summum bonum* that every woman should aspire for," she once told the INQUIRER.

A voracious reader, she loved reading the Colombian writer and journalist Gabriel Garcia Marquez. "When I learned he had won the Nobel, I was so overjoyed I could not sleep the whole night," she once recalled.

She devoured Tolstoy's "War and Peace," Yevtushenko's autobiographical work "Zima Junction," and Sholokhov's "And Quiet Flows the Don."

She recalled that when she was in prison, Hans Kelsen's "General Theory of Law and State" kept her company, moving a fellow detainee to say, *"Kaya kayo nakulong, basa kayo nang basa* (You were jailed because you were always reading)."

Clarence Darrow's books inspired her to become a lawyer. Political law was her favorite subject because, she said, "it made you understand society a little better."

'Very private'

Yorac's *barkada* was composed mostly of former professors and students and legal colleagues.

She was one of the rowdy intellectuals who frequented an eating place in Diliman, Quezon City. "But I'm not really a groupie," she said. "I'm very private. I'm a natural-born anarchist."

Yorac treasured her Catholic faith and hardly missed Sunday Mass. Her faith she explained thus: "Like George Santayana, you accept it because by compulsion you know that it is valid."

Her faith was a source of strength even before she fell ill of cancer. She once told the INQUIRER: "There are many pressures in government, so many things to be depressed about and resist. People think I'm strong, but I need reinforcement."

'Hayop'

Yorac's friends and admirers had fancied her winning an elective position. But when she ran for senator in 1998, she did not make it.

At one time, her admirers coined for her a campaign acronym: "Hayop (meaning beast, to denote strength)," which stood for Haydee Yorac for President.

But the "lion tamer" was not amused. "Why are we always thinking of elections?" she demanded to know.

"We're always looking for a figure, a brooding omnipotence. We should work toward community, awaken popular power. Forget elections, organize people."

She rued the fact that in this lawyer-dominated country, society determined the behavior of lawyers.

"Lawyers have removed themselves from the larger interests," she observed.

"Ideally, lawyers are for fairness, justice and clarification of legal issues when there is conflict of interests. Instead, lawyers manipulate the technicalities of the law to defeat the ends of justice."

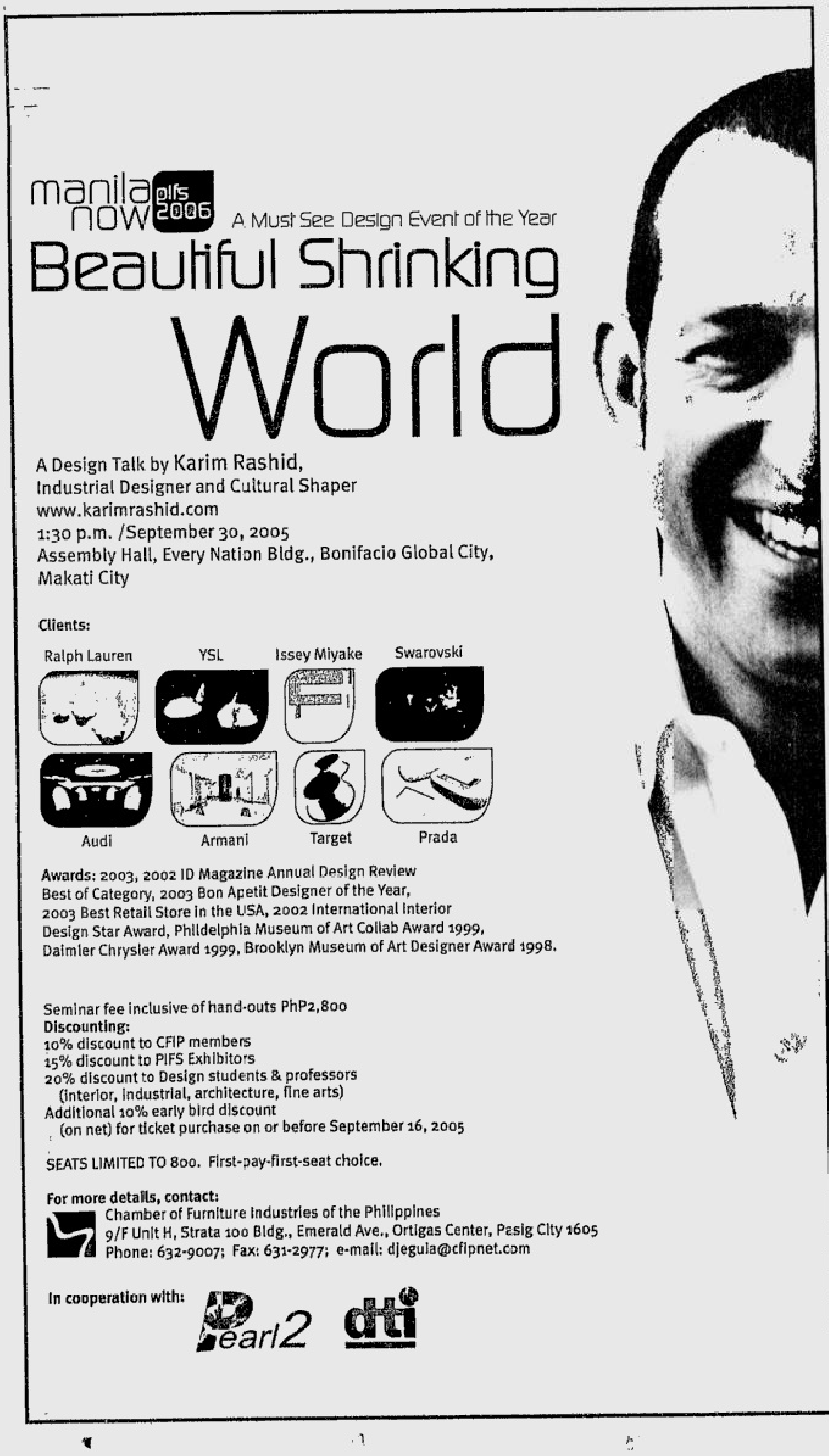
'Exceptional integrity'

Slowed down by a stroke and cancer surgery two years ago, Yorac— nose tubes, face mask and all—rose from her sickbed and called the INQUIRER when she thought the PCGG's fight had been compromised.

She lashed out at those whom she perceived to stand in the way of justice.

Last year, Yorac was awarded the Ramon Magsaysay Award for Government Service, the most prestigious among the string of awards and citations that had come her way.

She was recognized "for her building confidence in government through service of exceptional integrity and rigor and her unwavering pursuit of the rule of law in the Philippines." *With a report from Cyril L. Bonabente and Jamie Alarcon, PDI Research*



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New aircons eyed for sweltering Naia2 terminal in time for summer

By Nikko Dizon

THE CHRISTMAS carols aren't even playing at the airports yet, but the Manila International Airport Authority (Miaa) is already gearing up for the summer season.

Miaa general manager Alfonso Cusi said the agency will purchase eight additional air conditioning units for the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (Naia) Centennial Terminal in preparation for the summer.

"It's really hot (at the Centennial Terminal). We're going to add air-conditioning units in preparation for the summer. Last summer everybody complained (of the heat at the airport)," Cusi told reporters after the send off for President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo Monday night.

Cusi said the present air conditioning system at the Centennial Terminal is no longer enough for the airport facility, which houses both the domestic and international flights of flag carrier, Philippine Airlines (PAL).

PAL has installed four portable cooling systems at its international departure terminal to make up for the poor air conditioning that has passengers and PAL employees fanning themselves inside the airport.

Cusi said the old Naia Terminal 1 "does not have any problems" with its air conditioning system.

Garci not in NY or New Jersey

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. and Leila B. Salaverria

FORMER ELECTION COMMISSIONER Virgilio Garcillano is not hiding in the Big Apple or the Garden State after all.

United States immigration authorities told the Philippine consulate in New York City they had no record of Garcillano entering the US, after Sen. Aquilino Pimentel had claimed Garcillano had been sighted in New Jersey. New York abuts New Jersey.

The Department of Foreign Affairs had confirmed that Garcillano had flown to Singapore on July 14 and that he flew to the United Kingdom the next day.

Philippine Consul General to New York Cecilia Rebong said the consulate had written US immigration authorities in New York and New Jersey for information on Garcillano.

"So far all their answers have been negative," Rebong said. "I'm sure when something comes up they will let us know..," she added.

Garcillano is believed to be the man President Macapagal-Arroyo was talking to in the "Hello Garci" tapes discussing alleged fraud in the 2004 presidential election. The President has admitted talking to an election official whom she did not identify but she has denied any wrongdoing.

The DFA would be submitting documents pertaining to the arrival of Garcillano in Singapore to the fact-finding committee investigating his flight, immigration regulation chief Gary Mendoza said yesterday.

But Mendoza, a member of the committee, declined to elaborate on the documents, saying he had yet to see them.

"I got the information that we will be receiving documents related to the arrival of Mr. Garcillano in Singapore but, officially, we don't have them yet," he said in a phone interview.

He said that as soon as the committee receives the documents, it would again summon the pilots and other crew of the Subic Air Learjet that Garcillano reportedly took to Singapore, as well as the customs, immigration and quarantine personnel on duty at the time the supposed flight took off.

"We will ask them questions related to the documents," Mendoza said.

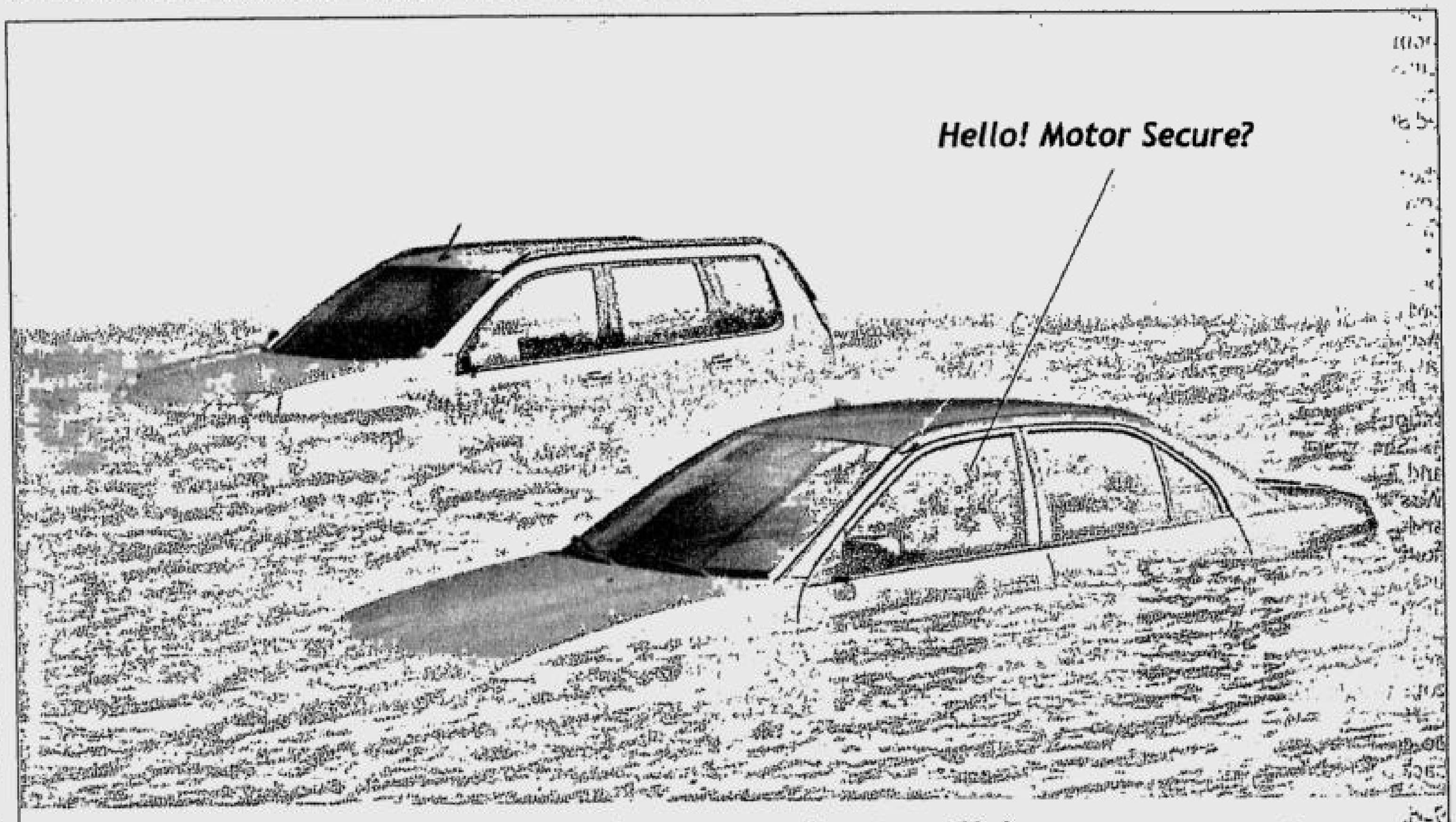
The pilots, who had been questioned before, were identified as Captains Arthur Santos and Wilfrido Bautista. Mechanic Benito Hafalla was also aboard the plane.

The immigration officer on duty on that day was identified as Raymond Pilac.

All have said Garcillano was not on the flight.

The five-member committee is chaired by Senior State Prosecutor Emily de los Santos with immigration executive director Roy Almoro as vice chair. Its members are State Prosecutors Lourdez Zapanta and Olivia Non.

Mendoza, meanwhile, said the committee had yet to discuss summoning Garcillano's wife Grace before it. He said this remained a possibility.



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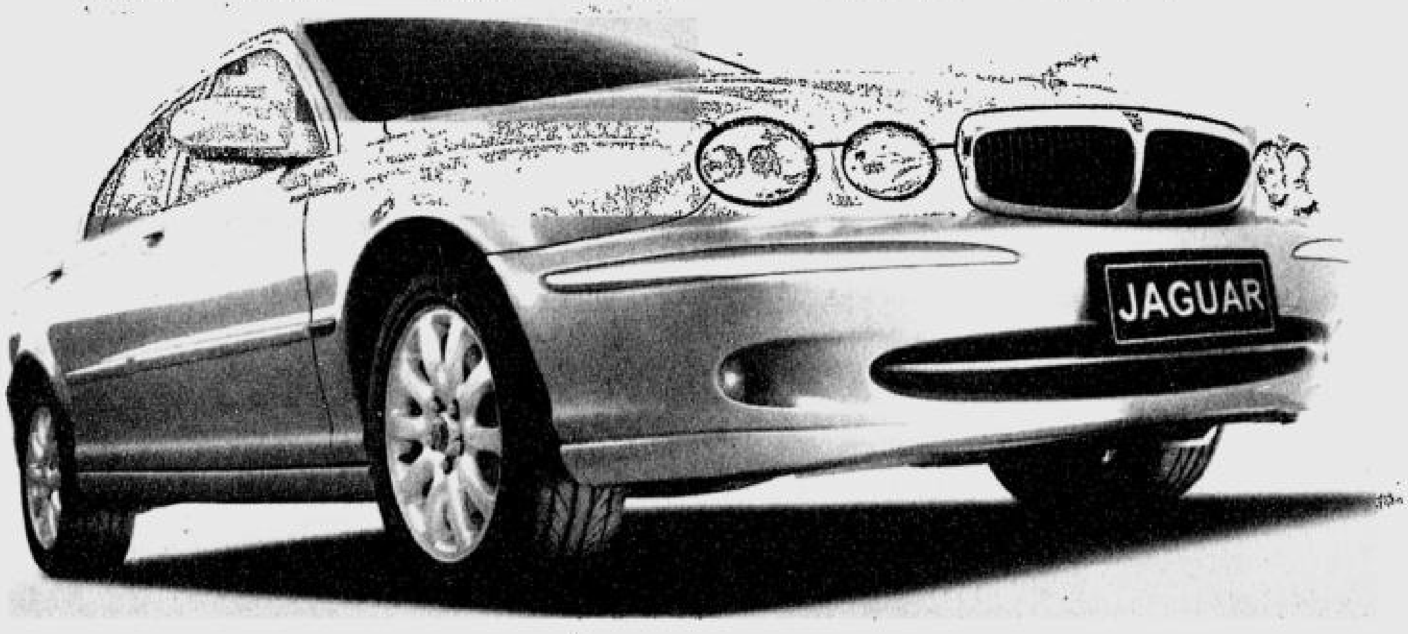

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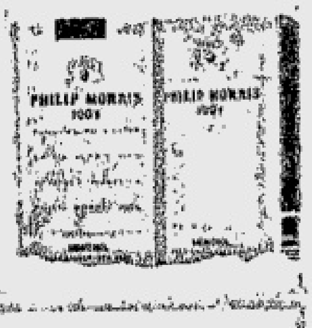

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"THE TRUTH is not yet found," Archbishop Oscar Cruz points out to the media the significance of the CBCP permanent council's statement urging the public to continue to seek the truth.
RODEL ROTONI

Bishops warn vs excessive ...

From page A1

that further oppress the poor and divide our people," it said. "We appeal to the people to meet our present trials with sobriety and faith," it added.

However, the CBCP statement also said that "the search for the truth must continue" into the allegations that Arroyo committed election fraud—provided the search was "guided by the principles of the rule of law."

The statement did not spell out how the search for truth should proceed a week after Ms Arroyo's allies in Congress quashed the impeachment complaints.

Politics not Church arena

"We remind our people—especially our basic ecclesiastical communities, lay organizations and movements—that the political arena is their responsibility as baptized Catholics," the CBCP said.

The impeachment move against Ms Arroyo was sparked by the release of wiretapped conversations in June purporting to show that she conspired with former Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano to rig the May 2004 election. Garcillano has fled the country.

Ms Arroyo has apologized for talking to an election official before the vote tally was completed but has denied any wrongdoing and vowed not to step down.

On July 10, the bishops shied away from mounting calls for Ms Arroyo's resignation but urged the President not to dismiss them altogether. They said resignation, impeachment and the convening of a truth commission were not against the Gospel—prescriptions to defuse the worst political crisis of the 4-year-old Arroyo presidency that have so far been ignored.

GMA meets bishops

CBCP president Archbishop Fernando Capalla, who read the bishops' statement during a news conference, was asked if people power was an option in the search for truth. "It's the right of the people to assemble peacefully according to the rule of law," he said.

However, Capalla said that Ms Arroyo had met with the bishops recently, adding that "in part, she answered our call to examine herself."

"We still have to find out if all our suggestions and recommendations ... are followed," he said.

Asked how the search for the truth would be conducted, Capalla said "that is for the people to decide. That is a political issue. That is not for us."

Catholic Church leaders played key roles in popular uprisings that toppled corruption-tainted Presidents Ferdinand Marcos in 1986 and Joseph Estrada in 2001.

Cabinet Secretary Ricardo Saludo said the bishops' statement was a "wise and enlightening guidance to our people at this crucial time."

He said the government and the "great majority" of the people were responding to their call for the nation to move on and to turn their attention to poverty alleviation.

Other avenues

Saludo said there were "other avenues that can be used in finding and exposing the truth."

He suggested independent constitutional institutions such as the Commission on Elections and the Office of the Ombudsman could look into the election fraud charges and claims Ms Arroyo's family had received illegal gambling payoffs.

Rep. Alan Peter Cayetano, a member of the impeachment team in Congress, said the opposition planned to file a motion for reconsideration of the Sept. 6 vote killing the impeachment complaints when the House resumes its session on Sept. 19.

Cayetano said the "call for sobriety yet continued search for truth can be put into action by congressmen supporting a motion for reconsideration."

"The constitutional process for impeachment is the sober and legal venue ... where people can search for the truth," Cayetano told the INQUIRER.

House Majority Leader Prospero Nograles said the CBCP statement showed the bishops' distaste for processes that had no basis in law.

Nograles mentioned the opposition's plans to expose evidence against Ms Arroyo in a so-called people's court organized by civil society.

"We concur with the sobriety call of our bishops to follow the rule of law. That means a people's court or revolutionary transition government which have no legal basis are not viable options in the search for truth," Nograles said in a text message.

House Minority Leader Francis Escudero said the opposition had always been on the right side of sobriety. "Whatever change we are fighting for, we will achieve only through peaceful means," Escudero told the INQUIRER.

With reports from Norman Bordadora and Christine O. Avendaño, AFP

Gov't seeking US funding for Cha-cha ...

From page A1

Adviser Norberto Gonzales and a Baltimore-based lobby firm, Venable LLP.

A copy of the agreement was released yesterday by an opposition source to the INQUIRER.

Gonzales was not immediately available for comment.

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said in a television news interview he was not aware of the arrangement.

The agreement with Venable was signed on July 25—the day Ms Arroyo delivered her State of the Nation Address at the opening of Congress and called for amendments to the 1987 Constitution. Other signatories were James T. Pitts and James George Jatras in behalf of Venable. Venable's retainer's fee is reportedly $75,000 monthly.

Foreign influence

One of the law firm's specific tasks was to "secure grants or congressional earmarks for support of the Charter change initiative," said the three-page document. Part of such a grant would be used for "much needed re-engineering of the bureaucracy to recover large estimated losses from acts of corruption and government inefficiency," it added.

While noting the agreement's candid admission of large-scale government corruption and inefficiency, the source scored the administration for seeking foreign funding—and with it the prospect of foreign influence—in its plan to revise the Constitution.

"It's generally OK to hire lobbyists but why is the National Security Adviser doing this political work and why Charter change? What has a foreign government got to do with Cha-cha? Why ask for (US) congressional fiat for it?" he added.

To help AFP get loan

Besides securing US funding for the Charter amendment, Venable was also tasked to help the Armed Forces of the Philippines secure a $800-million loan through the US Defense Loan Guarantee Program to acquire military equipment and develop facilities. A similar "upgrade program" was also envisaged for the Philippine National Police.

The agreement also stipulated that the law firm should facilitate the "re-inclusion" of the country in various US assistance and development programs as well as credit facilities, like the Overseas Private Investment Corp., and work for the "gradual upgrading" of the government's investment ratings by entities such as the US Eximbank.

Unfavorable terms

The source, however, quoted a person knowledgeable in contracts with lobby firms who questioned aspects of the agreement that were "unfavorable" to the Philippines.

For one, the agreement allowed Venable, which has clients all over the world, to represent organizations or people who have interests "adverse to the Philippine government," that person said in a letter to the source.

"It is nice to get $75,000/month and also be able to represent people/organizations with adverse interests (to the Philippine government or) be able to represent even if (there) is a conflict of interests," the letter said.

It noted that the agreement did not categorically state "specific results required nor performance expected or promised" by Venable.

"There is no required reporting which is good for Venable because they will not be doing much other than cashing checks. They are not doing much for $75,000/month and probably less for whatever else they bill the Philippine government for," the letter said.

It said the "reasonable fee" for Venable's services should have been $50,000, adding that the fee set by the contract did not even include costs for "travel, telephone, fax, copying, etc."

Another fleecing

"In reality, lobbying and representation need not cost as much, especially if there are no concrete measurable results expected. I think the reasonable fee for the Philippines would be in the $50,000 level plus travel and agreed upon direct expenses without having to charge for faxes, telephone calls, copies and God knows what," the letter said.

"This is really another 'fleecing of the Philippines'," it added.

More importantly, the letter pointed out that most of Venable's members came from the US Democratic Party, which would make the firm's chances of success slimmer in a US administration and Congress that are both controlled by the Republican Party of US President George W. Bush.

"Venable is a big Democratic firm headquartered in Baltimore and, when you look at its members, there are a lot of names (mostly Democrats) from the past. Why would the Philippines select a Democratic firm," it said.

The source also questioned the $75,000 monthly fee given Venable, adding that it would amount to P50 million a year. "Definitely, there was no allocation for this in the budget. It could have come from the President's un-programmed expenses," the source said.

Other fees

While the government would pay Venable a $75,000 monthly retainer, it would have to pay an additional $720 hourly rate on "specific matters which are beyond the scope of the retainer agreement."

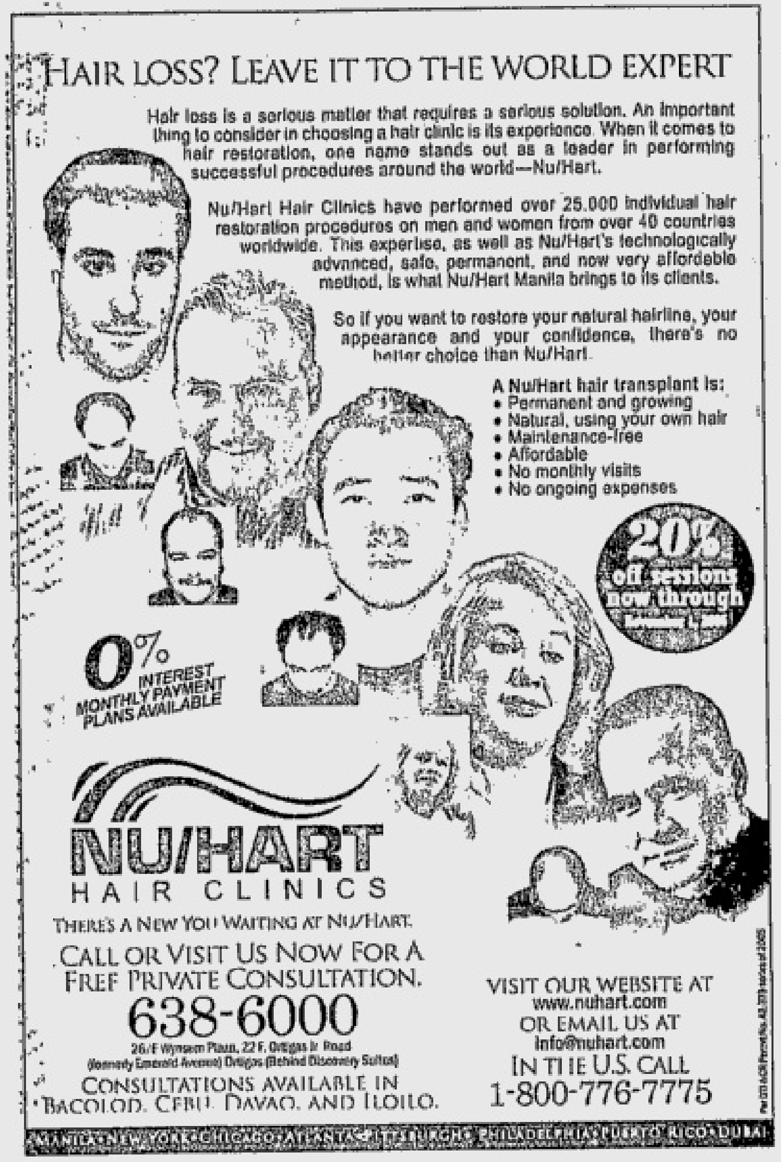
Venable's hourly rate ranged from $120 for junior associates to $720 for senior partners. Venable also uses advisors and paralegal personnel to do appropriate tasks and their time is billed at lower rates. The law firm's billing rates are subject to adjustment from time to time, usually in January of each year.

On conflict of interest

Venable would be allowed to represent clients even if their interests are adverse to those of the Philippine government. "In fact, Venable will seek to introduce clients to the Philippines in connection with economic development activities. Some of these clients, which Venable may represent, would be negotiating with the agencies of the Philippine government," the agreement said.

"Therefore, Venable requests the Philippine government's agreement that Venable may continue to represent or may undertake in the future to represent, existing or new clients in matters that are not substantially related to work for the Philippine government, even if the interests of such clients in those other matters are adverse to the Philippine government's," it added.

The agreement for one year will take effect after Venable gets its first three months of retainer fee.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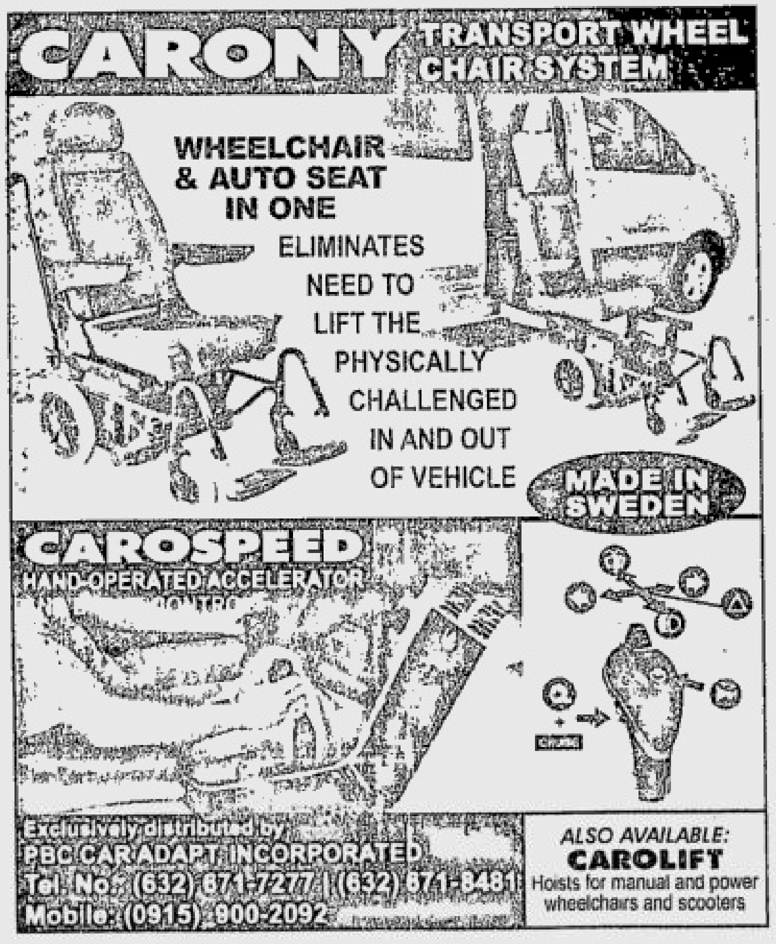
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AFP: Give Adan a chance

By Dona Pazzibugan

MILITARY OFFICERS disgruntled over the appointment of Lt. Gen. Edilberto Adan as Southern Command officer-in-charge should stop grumbling and just let Adan prove himself in his new command, said Armed Forces spokesperson Brig. Gen. Jose Honrado.

Honrado said the controversy surrounding Adan's appointment "should be put to rest."

He said that Adan "like the other candidates in the short list, is very much qualified to head this command."

"Let us allow him to do his job and prove his worth," he said.

A number of resentful senior and junior officers have expressed dissatisfaction with President Macapagal-Arroyo's decision to bypass Maj. Gen. Samuel Bagasin, the 4th Infantry Division commander who was the Board of Generals' choice to head the military's biggest unified area command.

They said Adan has never led an Army division and that his recent assignments were administrative in nature, as AFP spokesman and Philippine Military Academy superintendent.

Sources said the Board of Generals, of which Adan is a member, never considered him for the crucial post of Southcom chief since he is already the third highest official in the Armed Forces.

Malacañang has kept silent on the issue amid talk that Maj. Gen. Gabriel Habacon, 1st Infantry Division commander, lobbied for the post and that the President settled for a compromise so as not to displease Habacon or Bagasin.

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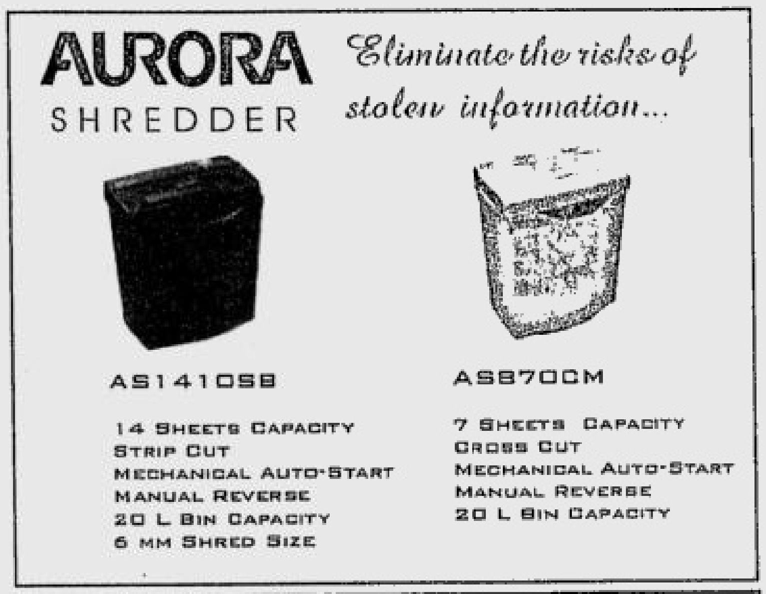
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The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

US disaster agency chief quits

NEW ORLEANS—THE HEAD OF THE US DISASTER agency resigned on Monday in the face of unrelenting criticism over Washington's response to Hurricane Katrina as the confirmed death toll from the calamity passed 500.

Michael Brown quit as chief of the Federal Emergency Management Agency while President George W. Bush was winding up a two-day visit to New Orleans and other devastated areas.

Brown had been removed three days earlier from direct control over recovery efforts on the Gulf Coast as complaints mounted that he came to the emergency too late with too little.

In an apparent nod to critics who said the agency needed more expertise at the top, the White House announced that David Paulison, a veteran firefighter who runs the agency's preparedness division, would take over as acting director.

Fifty-four percent of Americans disapprove of Bush's handling of the response to Katrina, according to two polls released on Monday—one by ABC News/Washington Post and the other by CNN/USA Today/Gallup.

Bush returned to Washington after rejecting charges that his administration responded to the Aug. 29 storm too slowly because most of the victims were black, or that the war in Iraq had cut into available manpower and resources.

BROWN

"My attitude is this: The storm didn't discriminate and neither will the recovery effort. When those Coast Guard choppers ... were pulling people off roofs, they didn't check the color of a person's skin. They wanted to save lives," the president said.

He said it was "preposterous" to claim that the Iraq war had drained military resources, leaving too few troops to help with the hurricane. About 70,000 soldiers have been deployed in the region.

Bush rode in an open, flatbed military truck through flooded streets past damaged houses, downed trees and fetid, black and gray floodwaters. National Guard soldiers swept mud-covered thoroughfares and cleared debris before his visit.

Critics have charged that the president seemed isolated from real-time information and slow to grasp the immensity of the disaster in the days after the storm hit. Bush's approval ratings have hit a low.

A methodical search for the dead continued in New Orleans and nearby areas. Teams of morticians were taking DNA samples from survivors who may have lost family members so they could try to make matches and perhaps identify the corpses they were finding.

The Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals said recovery workers found a cluster of 45 bodies at Memorial Medical Center in New Orleans. It was not immediately clear how they died but they were listed as part of the death total.

Around 40 percent of the city remains swamped by contaminated water, but surrounding suburbs were drying out.

Most of the city's 450,000 residents are scattered across the United States in shelters or with friends and family. *Reuters*

Offensive vs Iraq rebels intensified

TAL AFAR, IRAQ—US AND IRAQI forces Tuesday carried out a house-to-house search for insurgents in the northern town of Tal Afar after rebels melted away in the face of a large-scale operation, the US military said.

"The enemy no longer enjoys any kind of safe haven in the city ... or control of any part of (it), and is running from our forces," said Col. H.B McMaster, commander of the 3rd Armoured Cavalry Regiment.

"They have abandoned their positions, trying to save themselves by hiding in houses and communities," he said, adding that troops were conducting house-to-house searches for hiding rebels.

The 6,000 Iraqi and 4,000 US troops in the operation intensified their offensive late last week after days of deadly clashes initially failed to dislodge rebels.

Some 150 suspected rebels were killed while over 400 have been held in custody, commander Major James Gallivan said.

"A total of 407 bad guys are now held in custody ... These are the ones kept for further screening," he added, pointing out that many others were released after questioning.

Estimates vary for the number of rebels who had virtually controlled the town for the past months. A US general suggested they numbered between 350 and 500.

An Iraqi army lieutenant colonel suggested that up to half the rebels might have managed to flee to neighboring villages.

Among those arrested were some 30 foreign fighters, including around 20 Syrians, as well as four Afghanis and two Saudis, he told AFP requesting anonymity.

McMaster said rebels who slipped through the net would be hunted down. *AFP*

Wheelchair-bound man hijacks Colombian plane

BOGOTA—A WHEELCHAIR-bound father and his son hijacked a Colombian airliner Monday carrying grenades, but peacefully surrendered five hours later after allowing the crew and passengers to exit the plane, authorities said.

The Aires airliner had departed the southern city of Florencia when the two men commandeered it, said Gen. Edgar Lesmez, the chief of the Colombian Air Force. The plane landed in Bogota, the flight's original destination, but at a military airfield next to the capital's civilian El Dorado Airport.

After speaking with government negotiators and a Roman Catholic priest for hours while the twin-propeller plane stood on the tarmac, the two hostages surrendered and came down from the plane, accompanied by government negotiators, said Martin Gonzalez, spokesperson for Colombia's Civil Aviation authority. The crew also exited the plane safely, he said.

The two hijackers were arrested and are being questioned by the police, said German Navas, a congressman close to the negotiations. Speaking to reporters at the airport, Navas said the older one in the wheelchair, a former civil servant, said he decided to hijack the plane because he was angry at the government after not receiving compensation from the state for an injury.

Navas said the hijackers had smuggled two grenades onto the plane.

Shortly after landing in Bogota, the hijackers allowed women passengers and two babies to exit the plane and later allowed all the passengers off the aircraft.

There were believed to be 20 passengers and five crew members aboard the plane when it was hijacked. Among them was a US citizen, said a US official in Bogota who spoke on condition of anonymity. Further details on the American were not available.

Also on board was Colombian congressman Antonio Serrano, his assistant, Consuelo Barragan, told RCN television.

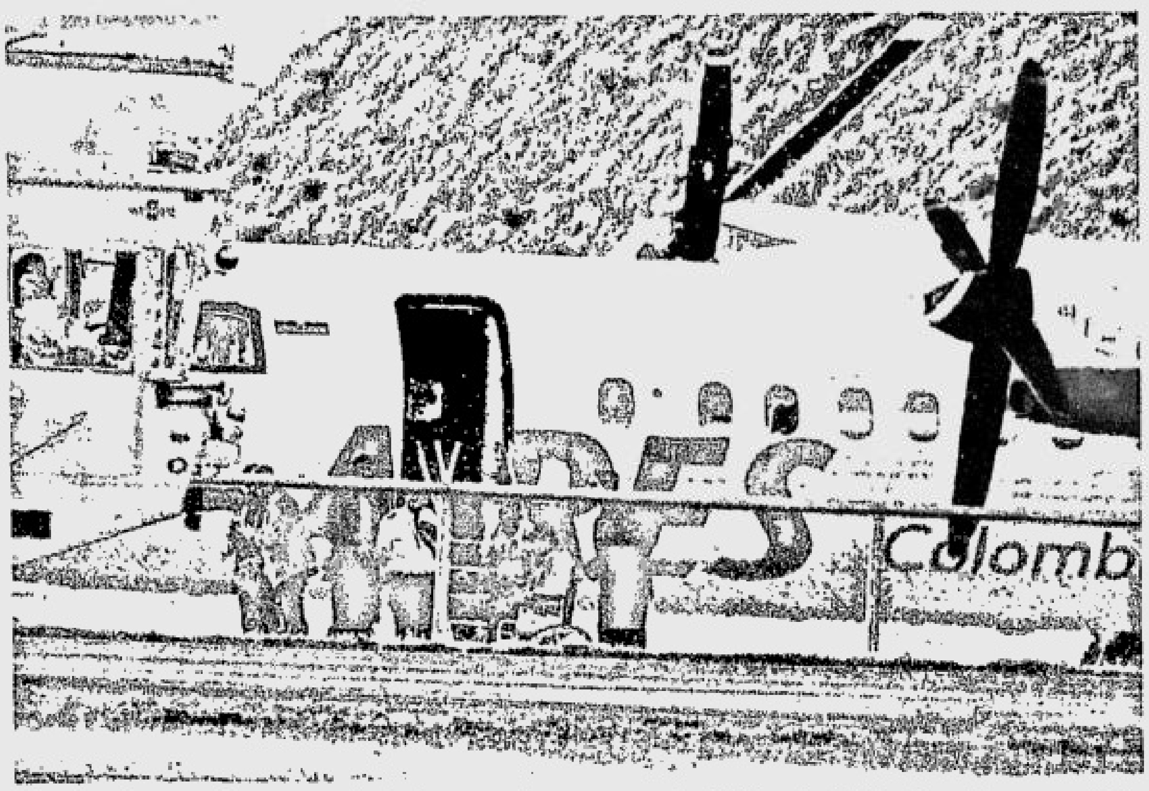
Gonzalez identified the hijackers as Luis Ramirez, about 42 years old, and his son Linsen Ramirez, about 22. Gen. Alberto Ruiz, chief of operations of the Colombian National Police, said they did not appear to belong to any of Colombia's illegal armed groups.

"They seem to be common citizens," Ruiz told journalists.

The drama riveted Colombians as it unfolded on their radios and television sets. They listened to one hostage, while still on the plane, describe the scene in a furtive cell phone conversation with local RCN radio.

"They have indicated to us they have explosives," Reinaldo Duque, one of the hostages, said in a hushed voice.

Duque, who works in Colombia's Congress, said all the passengers were herded to the rear of the Dash-8 plane while a priest spoke with the hijackers in the front. *AP*



COLOMBIAN security personnel take into custody a man on a wheelchair who held hostage all passengers of an **AIRES** airline twin-propeller aircraft Sept. 12 at the **CATAM** military air base in Bogota. AFP

UN world summit threatened with failure, says US

UNITED NATIONS—THE OUTcome of this week's UN world summit hung in the balance Monday as the United States reported deadlock on human rights and UN management reform.

Other delegations spoke of slow but steady progress overall and a core group of member states was to meet later Monday to examine a revised draft of the document that will be submitted to world leaders at their three day summit opening Wednesday.

Despite pessimistic comments by the US delegation, UN Secretary General Kofi Annan's chief of staff Mark Malloch Brown said:" We're slowing getting there." "Deadlines are starting to loosen minds on positions," he noted. "Heads of State are starting to arrive and the summit begins on Wednesday morning... The wind's blowing slightly better than an hour or so ago."

After marathon overnight talks on seven contentious issues, a US spokesperson said the discussions on setting up a revamped human rights council and on UN management reforms had fallen apart.

"These two issues, management and human rights council, have currently collapsed," the spokesperson, Rick Grenell, told reporters as the core group raced to finalize a draft document for the summit.

Adding to the tensions, UN secretary general Kofi Annan put off a press conference scheduled for Monday for 24 hours.

The core group ground on with efforts to nail down a deal on development, terrorism, human rights, responsibility to protect peoples threatened with genocide, disarmament and non-proliferation, UN management reform and setting up a peace-building commission.

"With the last-minute gutting of the human rights council just when we worked through development and other issues, the full document is in jeopardy," Grenell added.

He said some countries were objecting to two key criteria set for creation of the revamped UN human rights council to replace the current Human Rights Commission. *AFP*

Blackout hits Los Angeles

LOS ANGELES—A HUGE POWer cut hit much of Los Angeles on Monday blocking people in elevators for up to two hours and causing tailbacks as traffic lights went down.

Authorities blamed a power cable that was "accidentally" cut but the blackout came as a new shock to the nation two years after power cuts in the northeast that lasted several days, and two weeks after Hurricane Katrina caused widespread devastation along the Gulf Coast.

The blackout hit a large part of metropolitan Los Angeles and the San Fernando Valley. The lights went out at 12:37 p.m. (1937 GMT) and remained dark for about two hours in most areas.

Ron Deaton, general manager of the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (DWP), said city maintenance workers had accidentally cut a line at a receiving station, then connected it to another line "that was not expecting that amount of electricity." He said the surge triggered outages that knocked out service to more than two million people in parts of the city of Los Angeles and its immediate suburbs.

An al-Qaida videotape released Sunday had promised an attack on Los Angeles but authorities quickly reassured the public that terrorism was not suspected.

Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa said the outage was caused solely by human error, though the timing of the problem prompted concern. *AFP*

Lankershim

CARS are lined up at an inoperative traffic signal at an intersection in the Studio City section of Los Angeles as a power black out interrupted electrical service to many parts of the city Sept. 12. REUTERS

Tensions linger in Belfast after riots

BELFAST—BELFAST GROUND to a halt on Monday evening after Protestant demonstrators blocked roads and nervous commuters, fearing a resumption of the weekend's rioting, scrambled to leave the city early.

Violence flared in pockets and one police station was attacked with petrol bombs but there was no repeat of the sustained fighting seen on Saturday and Sunday when rioters hurled blast bombs, set light to hijacked cars and shot at police in the worst unrest in Northern Ireland for years.

Tension in the province's Protestant communities, which largely favor British rule, has mounted since Britain started to scale back its security presence there following a pledge by Irish Republican Army (IRA) guerrillas in July to disarm.

Protestants fear Britain is moving too fast at a time when the IRA, which wants to unite Northern Ireland with the Irish Republic, has shown no sign of getting rid of its weapons.

The latest violence could hamper efforts to forge a lasting political deal in the province, emerging from three decades of sectarian conflict in which 3,600 people were killed.

"The weekend's violence was much more deep-seated than many are perhaps prepared to accept," said Reg Empey, leader of the moderate pro-British Ulster Unionist Party.

"There has been a build-up of resentment that those who practise violence get listened to and have their concerns addressed ... Republicans are seen to influence government by threatening force and getting rewarded for their efforts."

US special envoy to Northern Ireland, Mitchell Reiss, warned Protestant political leaders they must take the lead in discouraging violence.

"I think it is a time for the Unionist leadership to really assert itself. This type of behavior is completely unacceptable. It doesn't serve anybody's agenda except for the lowest common denominators in society," he told reporters.

In what analysts said was a strong warning to Protestant paramilitaries to end their violence, Northern Ireland Secretary Peter Hain said he was reviewing their ceasefire status, which could close off negotiating channels for the militants. *Reuters*

Indonesian militant sentenced to death

JAKARTA—AN INDONESIAN militant was sentenced to death on Tuesday for helping plan and carry out last year's suicide bombing that killed 10 people at the Australian Embassy.

Iwan Darmawan, also known as Rois, said he would appeal the verdict—the first time that the death sentence has been handed down on suspects convicted in the Sept. 9, 2004 attack.

It was the latest in a series of tough sentences against militants in the world's most populous Muslim nation, which has seen three bloody terror attacks on mostly Western targets in the last three years.

Around 20 of Darmawan's supporters shouted "God is Great" when the verdict was read out in South Jakarta District court.

"The defendant Iwan Darmawan alias Rois and his friends were seriously involved in the planning of the attack by buying explosives and assembling the bomb," Judge Rocki Panjaitan said.

Darmawan is the most senior of six people arrested in connection with the attack.

Three have already been sentenced to prison terms of between 3½ and seven years, and prosecutors have asked for the death sentence for another man accused in the attack.

Police have blamed the attack on the regional terror group Jemaah Islamiyah, which is also linked to the 2002 Bali bombings that killed 202 people, mostly foreign tourists, and a 2003 blast at Jakarta's J.W. Marriott hotel that killed 12.

Panjaitan said Darmawan surveyed the heavily fortified mission three times before the truck bombing. *AP*

Palestinians celebrate first day of freedom

GAZA CITY—PALESTINIANS WERE IN CONTROL of the Gaza Strip on Tuesday for the first time in their history but deadly scenes of chaos and jubilation ensued after Israel closed the door on its four-decade occupation.

Thousands of Palestinian security personnel swarmed into abandoned Jewish settlements Monday, raising their flag over land captured by Israel in a war with Egypt 38 years ago, as Israeli tanks rolled out, ending a deployment steeped in bloodshed.

"It is time for our people to rejoice and to put an end to the tragedies, sadness and suffering," Palestinian leader Mahmud Abbas said as he toured the ruins of the former settlement of Dugit in the north of the territory.

"We have made the first steps on the road to realizing our aspirations and we must continue with our journey," he added.

The day was tinged with tragedy, however, as five Palestinians drowned in once-forbidden seas off Gaza while another was killed on the border with Egypt.

The operation marked Israel's first full withdrawal from occupied Palestinian territory, hailed by the international community as a new chance for peace but a political gamble for right-wing Prime Minister Ariel Sharon.

UN Secretary General Kofi Annan and the United States praised Israel for its withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and voiced hope that it would lead to revived peace talks with the Palestinians.

Thousands of Gazans flocked towards the evacuated areas from daybreak, desperate to glimpse the last vestiges of an occupation built on prime real estate for decades declared off-limits to Palestinians.

Smoke spewed into the air from burning rubbish in former settlements as enormous national flags fluttered from telegraph poles while mobs of youths poured in, ransacking, looting and torching synagogues and other buildings.

The green banner of Islamic militant group Hamas, which has declared the pullout a victory for its five-year campaign of violence, was hoisted above a ransacked synagogue in Neve Dekalim, once the largest Gaza settlement.

Around 20 masked gunmen from its rival Islamic Jihad paraded through the enclave, firing into the air as hundreds of men, women and children scavenged through the rubble of the buildings, searching for Israeli booty.

On the Gaza-Egypt border, anarchy reigned as dozens of Palestinians swarmed into part of the buffer zone vacated by Israeli troops just hours before.

One Palestinian was shot dead as he approached a security fence while dozens of youngsters entered no-man's land on the Egyptian side after toppling the barbed wire fence on top of a concrete wall that marks the frontier.

Egyptian authorities, who denied responsibility for the shooting, had allowed hundreds of families living in the divided town of Rafah to take part in reunions inside the buffer zone.

Defense Minister Shaul Mofaz warned that Israel's departure from Gaza ushered in a policy of "zero tolerance" towards continued violence as Hamas vowed to press its campaign of resistance until all Palestinian land was freed.

"From now on, it's zero tolerance to terrorism and the army is prepared to act in every possible way," Mofaz said, without elaborating.

Israel's Gaza divisional commander General Avi Kochavi was the last to go at 6:50 a.m. (0350 GMT). *AFP*

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PALESTINIANS collect valuables from the burning former Jewish settlement of Kfar Darom in Gaza strip Sept. 12. REUTERS

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Wealthy Norway swings to the left

OSLO—Norwegian Prime Minister Kjell Magne Bondevik conceded defeat after nearly all votes in Monday's parliamentary election had been counted, giving the leftist opposition an absolute majority.

"Politically I am disappointed that (the coalition government) has not been allowed to continue," Bondevik said after 96 percent of the votes had been counted, revealing an absolute majority for the left-leaning opposition.

The opposition coalition, comprising Labor, the Socialist Left Party and the agrarian Center Party, appeared to have won a combined 88 of the 169 seats in parliament, against 81 seats for Bondevik and his allies.

The opposition has thereby won the absolute majority it has insisted was needed to form a new government.

"We promised an absolute majority and that's what we're going to give the country," Labor leader Jens Stoltenberg told reporters.

Stoltenberg said that "there will be a bit of celebrating." The makeup of the next government will not be announced until after parliament reassembles on Oct. 10.

Nearly 76 percent of Norway's 3.4 million eligible voters had cast their votes to determine who will lead their country for the next four years.

The election remained a cliffhanger up until the very end with opinion polls swinging dramatically back and forth between the right and the left, as the election campaign focused on the distribution of Norway's abundant oil wealth.

Bondevik has touted the country's robust economic health during his government's four years in power.

The leftist opposition, which has presented a united front for the first time, meanwhile attacked Bondevik's tax cuts for the wealthy, and proposed instead more spending on education, healthcare and welfare. *AFP*

Astronomers detect most distant cosmic explosion

WASHINGTON—Astronomers said on Monday they have detected a cosmic explosion at the very edge of the visible universe, a 13-billion-year-old blast that could help them learn more about the earliest stars.

The brilliant blast—known as a gamma ray burst—was probably caused by the death of a massive star soon after the Big Bang, but was glimpsed on Sept. 4 by Nasa's new Swift satellite and later by ground-based telescopes.

The explosion occurred soon after the first stars and galaxies formed, perhaps 500 million to 1 billion years after the Big Bang explosion that scientists believe gave birth to the cosmos. The current scientific estimate for the age of the universe is 13.7 billion years.

"We are finally starting to see the remnants of some of the oldest objects in the universe," said Daniel Reichart of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Reichart led the team that measured the distance of the blast from Earth.

This gamma ray burst, or GRB for short, could be the first of dozens or hundreds that might soon be unveiled to scientists, and these expected discoveries could help them learn more about the early universe, astronomer Donald Lamb said in a telephone news conference.

"This burst opens the door to the use of GRBs as unique and powerful probes of the early universe," said Lamb, a professor at the University of Chicago. "This is what we've all been waiting and hoping for and now the fun begins." *Reuters*

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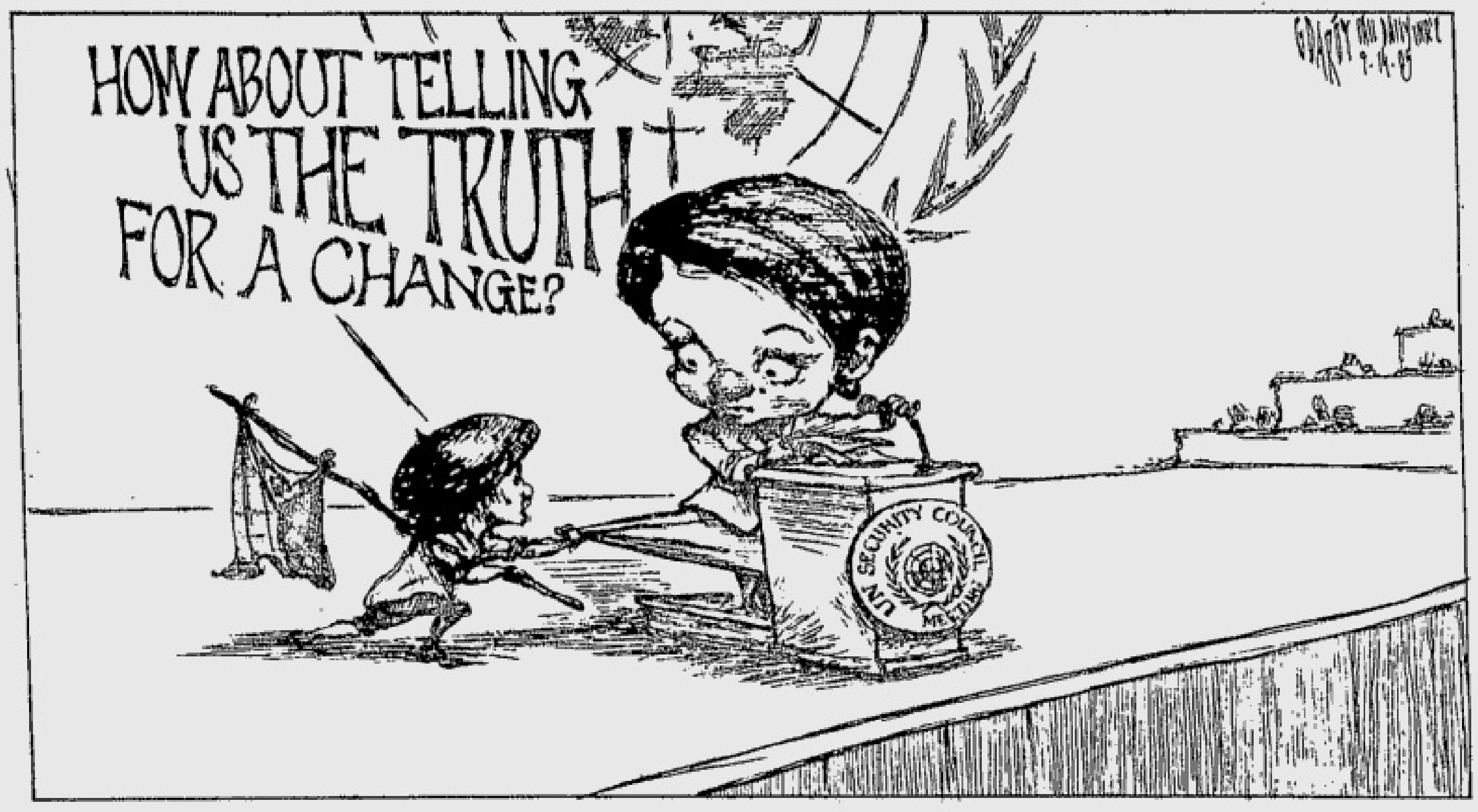

HOW ABOUT TELLING US THE TRUTH FOR A CHANGE?
UN SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING

Discord

EDITORIAL

TO THE POPE BELONGS THE AUTHORITY TO create, divide and merge dioceses, and to appoint their bishops. Bishops, once appointed by the Pope, are the rulers of their dioceses, which are divided into parishes. The obligation of the bishop is to make sure his administration conforms with the general laws of the Catholic Church. He must uphold Canon Law, the dogmas and beliefs of the Church, and obedience to Rome.

In all other things, however, the bishop's authority is absolute within his diocese, and his initiatives are his own. That is why, Catholics may notice that when bishops visit a fellow bishop and they say Mass together, only the bishop of that diocese uses his shepherd's staff, signifying his authority over his diocesan territory. Unless in his capacity as a personal representative of the Pope or as part of a judicial proceeding directed by Rome, a bishop cannot question another bishop.

When bishops get together in a national assembly of their peers (such as the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines), or together as the bishops of the universal Church (such as in a Council of the Church, when together, they can define faith and morals, or a Synod, in which they help the Pope determine policy), their collective voices have added strength and speak to all the faithful in a locality or to the entire Church.

These distinctions—the freedom of bishops to speak up in their capacity as the heads of dioceses and the collegial processes involved in institutions such as the CBCP—are important. And they need to be restated because prelates such as Ricardo Cardinal Vidal of Cebu have criticized the media for fostering the impression that there is disunity among the bishops of the Philippines.

To be sure, in terms of the collective acts of bishops, such as the pastoral statements of the CBCP, there is unity. No bishop has specifically denounced, or refused to uphold, their collective stand. But equally certain is that there are bishops who uphold the need to reexamine such collective pronouncements, just as there are bishops who object to any reexamination of the carefully-worded pronouncements of the CBCP.

It is normally not the business of media to delve into the bureaucratic makeup of the Catholic Church. The business of media is to report the news, and when individual bishops make public pronouncements as prominent personalities both in their dioceses and the country at large, what they say can be newsworthy. Bishops can neither ignore, nor object to, their social and even political prominence, particularly in cases where their standing as pastors ministering to both a particular, that is, local, and national, flock, in a predominantly Christian country, is concerned.

We understand that Cardinal Vidal, by his nature a cautious and conciliatory man, objects to the possibly misleading impression that bishops are battling each other for the soul of the Church, if not political influence in what that Church decides to say, as far as President Macapagal-Arroyo is concerned. What the media cannot ignore, however, is that there are bishops who have tended to support the President, such as Davao Archbishop Fernando Capalla, and others who have actively criticized her, such as Dagupan Archbishop Oscar Cruz and Bishops Deogracias Iñiguez of Caloocan and Antonio Tobias of Novaliches. There are bishops who have weighed in with statements that are also unfavorable to the President, such as Manila Archbishop Gaudencio Rosales. Given these contending voices, the only voice that can supersede theirs is that of the Pope in Rome. And these voices have every right to be heard when bishops gather together to define a common stand.

The media are not playing one bishop against the other. It is the bishops, speaking within their particular jurisdictions, who are making their voices heard. That each voice ends up challenging another voice in a different locality only points to the objective reality that each has his own mind, and that these minds are often in fundamental disagreement with each other. Media, being secular, can neither gloss over these differences nor ignore them. Indeed, the clashing and contending views seem to be a sign that after the initial truce between the bishops arising from their last statement, the time is ripe for them to state their collective stand clearly.

Ex-VP, solon urge civil disobedience

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO, NOW IN New York, was originally scheduled to also go to Saudi Arabia but canceled the trip. Why? The joke is that she heard that the Saudis chop off the hands of thieves, cut off the tongues of liars, and chop off the heads of cheats.

Before going to the United States, right after the victories of Manny Pacquiao and two other Filipino boxers, GMA immediately went on television to claim credit for Manny's victory. "God heard my prayers that he win," she said, implying that she has a hotline to God and that had she not prayed for Manny, he would have lost.

I did not tape their conversation but I can imagine how it went:

GMA: Hello. Hello. Hello, Goddie. *'Yung lamang ni* Manny *kay* Velasquez, *dagdagan mo pa.*

Goddie: *Opo*, ma'am, *ayos na po yon. Kung hindi pa, ipapakidnap ko ang* family *niya.*

GMA: *Sige nga. Ina-asahan kita.*

I also did not see the ghost-written message that she aired on TV, but I can imagine how it could have gone had she written it herself:

"Manny and the two other Filipino boxers won because of me. I myself knocked out three impeachment complaints against me. Had any one of them prospered, Manny and the other Filipinos would have lost. They would be demoralized at the injustice and oppression done against me. God was lucky He obeyed my orders. I am the Super Champ.

* * *

Manny Pacquiao is getting all the accolades and publicity—in fact, too much of them. The two other Filipino boxers in the same fight card, Brian Viloria and Rey "Boom Boom" Bautista, did better than he. Manny took six rounds to score a technical knockout against Hector Velazquez, but it took Viloria only one to knock out his opponent, and Bautista only three to also win by knockout.

And Manny only won the WBC International super featherweight title, a sort of *consuelo de bobo* title that is disputed by fighters who do not make the WBC's (World Boxing Council) top 10 rankings. Viloria won the real McCoy, the WBC light flyweight crown. Bautista, on the other hand, is the reigning WBO Asia-Paciific champion.

That was the 17th straight win for Bautista, 13 by knockout. And Viloria is unbeaten in 18 fights, with 12 KOs. Manny has three losses and two draws. He has 31 KOs, but that was achieved in 40 victories. Viloria and Bautista have the better records and they should get more media attention.

As for Manny, he may be spoiled by all the publicity, and money, just like other champions before him. He is now a movie star. And you know how the movies swell the heads and become the downfall of many otherwise sensible people.

* * *

The President is not yet over the hump. She may have hurdled the first few steps, but there are many more steps to go, and the opposition is making sure the rest of the journey would be a difficult obstacle course. The next big obstacle is civil disobedience and passive resistance, a tactic so successfully used by Mahatma Gandhi against the British colonial regime.

Civil disobedience was voiced by former Vice President Teofisto Guingona and Rep. Satur Ocampo at the Kapihan sa Manila last Monday. Civil disobedience has many forms, like not paying your taxes, boycotts, strikes, sit-ins, even just noise barrages—anything to show your protest against the government or its policies.

Won't the protesters be arrested and charged in court, for not paying taxes, for example?

Guingona and Ocampo explained that the principle of civil disobedience is that so many people would be doing the same thing that the government simply cannot arrest and charge them all. There would not be enough jails to put them in nor enough money to feed them all. It is similar to having too many liars testifying at congressional investigations that the government doesn't bother to charge any one of them with perjury.

Among different forms of civil disobedience, not paying taxes is the most effective, they said. When the government runs out of money, it won't be able to function. Best of all, it won't have any money to bribe congressmen and mercenary witnesses.

Won't speeches and writings advocating civil disobedience invite charges of inciting to sedition?

They fall under the constitutional provision of freedom of speech and of the press, and of the Bill of Rights, said Guingona. The people have the right to protest and express their grievances, he explained.

Somebody asked: "Now that GMA is abroad, won't it be simpler not to let her come back?"

This technique is not without precedent. Many heads of state and government have been deposed when they made the mistake of going abroad to escape the heat at home. One of the most notable examples was Prince Norodom Sihanouk of Cambodia. He went to China and was unable to come back.

(Going abroad, by the way is a common tactic of chief executives under fire at home. While abroad, criticisms at home against the chief executive usually die down. President Richard Nixon, at the height of the Watergate scandal, made a very successful trip to China. But when he came back to the United States, the criticisms resumed, and did not stop until he resigned.)

But how do you prevent GMA from coming back? By sit-ins or lie-ins on the runway so her plane cannot land. Or by Air Force jets warning civilian airliners carrying her to turn back.

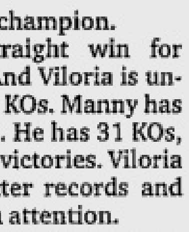
But she can always be smuggled in by boat. In which case, you guard the ports and the seashores. Almost 80 percent of Filipinos don't want her back, so that shouldn't be difficult to do.

What if she sets up a government-in-exile? Then let her. The important thing is that she is not here. If she was not effective while she was here, how can she be effective if she is away?

Missing links

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros



TWO OF THE THREE MISSING LINKS ARE NO longer missing. The third continues to elude. Those are the missing links in the campaign to oust a tyrant, currently in the literal form of someone ruling without the citizens' consent.

The first is the military. De La Salle schools president Bro. Armin Luistro, credited with uniting a fractious opposition (the one associated with the Parliament of the Streets and not with Congress), has warned that unless GMA steps down, the military might try to resolve the impasse. "Capitalizing on pent-up feelings about the system, the young officers can decide to...take advantage of the political crisis to catapult themselves into power."

That is a real possibility. I've heard that, too, straight from the horse's mouth. The soldiers are restive. Partly because of the humongous corruption in their ranks and partly because of the even more humongous corruption outside, both of which are reducing the foot soldier literally to being unshod. The groups that were used to keep the peace in Muslim Mindanao in particular feel raw about having been used merely to keep GMA in Malacañang. GMA's appointments, moreover, based on loyalty rather than merit, not unlike Marcos' paranoid ones during his last days, are adding fuel to the fire. The case of Edilberto Adan is a very big case in point.

It's all the leaders of the various groups in the AFP, legal or clandestine, can do to keep their men on leash, they say. The only reasons they are desperately trying to do so are: one, they want to avoid shedding blood, which is bound to be their own, and they'd rather get their superiors to see things their way by persuasion rather than coercion; and, two, because they are still waiting for a credible civilian group to take the lead. If that credible civilian group doesn't come around, they might very well take the initiative themselves.

Conversely, if that credible civilian group does come around, it will not lack for backing from them.

It has come around, in the form of the group Luistro has forged, which swells like a flood by the day. It comes with a powerful image as well, which is the Two Widows, Corazon Aquino and Susan Roces, standing side by side, the aggrieved seeking justice.

The second is the Catholic Church. The past Edsas had the backing of the Church, and any future Edsa, which may or may not take the form of people taking to the streets, will continue to need that backing. While the Church may no longer exert great influence on many things, it continues to do so on matters of faith and morals. Edsa is not just a resolutely political exercise, it is also a deeply moral one. The predominantly Catholic citizenry may not always require the Church to discern the moral path, but they do require the Church to help move their asses to tread it. The Church gives an official blessing to a moral enterprise that conscience alone leaves hanging. This isn't a Protestant country where the faithful have direct access to God. This is a Catholic country where the faithful can communicate with the God of Everyday Life only through Mike Velarde and the late Jaime Cardinal Sin.

Cory and Sin were a tandem. The one represented earth and the other heaven, and in combination everything in-between. Neither one could swing an Edsa without the other. Cory and Roces standing arm-in-arm is a powerful image, but it is not enough. It requires the collective voice of the bishops to push a jaded public past its inertia.

That missing link has been found, too. Incoming CBCP president Angel Lagdameo is as different from outgoing CBCP president (and outspoken Pagcor defender) Fernando Capalla as the last Pope is to the current one. The position the bishops have taken lately is a far cry from the one they took in July when they refused to lend a hand to nudge a usurper from power. The distance between insisting GMA still has the option to resign and saying she has no other option left is just one step away.

There is one link that remains missing, however, and I personally feel it is the most important one today. Its absence is the one thing that has kept the people away from the streets even after GMA's allies in Congress strangled the impeachment complaint against her. The SWS had earlier revealed that 51 percent of Filipinos favored people power if Congress were to do so.

That missing link is what would happen after GMA goes. I said it before and I say it again: The groups opposing GMA do not pitch one common alternative to the public, GMA can last indefinitely. The critical difference between the last two Edsas and today is that the alternative then offered abundant hope things could get better while the alternatives today induce vague fears that things could get worse. Then the question of what happened after the tyrant was overthrown could be left implicit, today it has to be spelled out categorically.

That alternative can only be elections. It is the only thing that can allay fears; it is the only thing that can offer hope. The voters were robbed of the vote; the voters should be given back the vote. I've always proposed "snap elections," but someone told me recently it would be better to say "credible elections," presuming as this does the cleaning up of the Comelec first. I agree. I agree as well that you need an interim group to prepare for credible elections in the aftermath of people power, but I will always argue that the shorter this group is proposed to exist, the shorter the GMA government will continue to exist. That is to say, the shorter the proposed shelf life of this group, the less fears you have to allay, or the more hope you fan in the public that things could get better.

Oust GMA, hold (clean) elections ASAP. The second is the only remaining missing link. It's time it was found.

Waking up a sleeping tiger

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

LAST WEEK, BRO. ARMIN LUISTRO, PRESIDENT of the De La Salle University System turned political activist, warned of seething unrest among young officers of the Armed Forces, saying that "pent-up feelings against the system" could prompt them to seize power.

Luistro, who is also the convenor of the Coalition for Truth, which is pressing for the resignation of President Macapagal-Arroyo, was referring to the disgruntlement in the military over the controversial appointment of Lt. Gen. Edilberto Adan as officer in charge of the strategic Southern Command, instead of Maj. Gen. Samuel Bagasin, who had been recommended for the position by the Board of Generals.

"Capitalizing on these pent-up feelings about the system," Luistro said, "the young officers can decide to venture into politics and take advantage of the political crisis to catapult themselves (to) power."

Putting his coalition's spin on the military unrest, Luistro said the longer Ms Arroyo stayed in office, the danger of military intervention to resolve the present political stand-off looms large. In an attempt to sow division in the Armed Forces, Luistro said the threat of military adventurism did not come from generals who "enjoyed extravagant lifestyles," but from junior officers exposed to dangers in combat zones.

The promotion of generals has traditionally been a source of discontent in the AFP, and the Adan promotion is not the first time generals have been upset over such decisions. What's different is that Luistro blew up the episode as a trigger for a coup d'etat.

Luistro was not only issuing a warning but appears to be inciting the junior officers—the so-called "Young Turks"—to grab power, even as the senior officers seem more restrained in accommodating the impulses of military adventurism, which has been their fashion since 1986. That year a successful people power revolt unleashed a series of coup attempts that threatened the overthrow of the newly restored democracy under President Corazon Aquino. In his haste to force the resignation of Ms Arroyo and in his frustration over the dismissal by the House of Representatives of the impeachment complaints against the President, Luistro and his cohorts in the Coalition for Truth have engaged in the dangerous game of awakening the sleeping tiger of military adventurism.

Luistro's agitation followed the call a week earlier issued by Aquino to the soldiers to join the march she and her associates led from St. Peter Church to the Batasan to put pressure on the members of the House to send the complaints to the Senate for trial.

Aquino's call was a bit surprising because in 1989, it was a cabal of young officers who spearheaded the coup attempt and the attack on Malacañang. On the morning of the coup, a cabal led by then Capt. Danilo Lim, suddenly appeared on national TV, in what looked like a junta, and startled the nation with the announcement of the formation of a provisional government.

In July 2003, it was a group of young officers calling themselves the Magdalo group and led by Lt.(s.g.) Antonio Trillanes that staged a mutiny at the Oakwood apartments, and the issue that provoked the mutiny was the grievances over military supplies and equipment for soldiers fighting the war against separatist rebels in Mindanao.

What these outbreaks show is that military adventurism has found a fertile soil in the Armed Forces and lies just under a thin skin.

It remains to be seen whether the controversy and unrest over Adan's appointment constitute sufficient provocation to prompt the young officers to stage a coup or Luistro is misreading the mood of the military. The coups of the 1980s proved to be bloody encounters (although loyalist and rebel troops were quite restrained in shooting one another, averting carnage). Thus, when the general staff led by Gen. Angelo Reyes withdrew support from the government of President Joseph Estrada, Reyes took care that the generals were unified and that the chain of command was not broken.

Should the young officers, fed up with the system in the Armed Forces and with the inconclusive political stalemate, stage a coup on their own, Luistro and his cohorts cannot be assured that a military intervention at this time—whether initiated by the senior officers or by the Young Turks—will be as bloodless and peaceful as those in 1986 and Edsa II in 2001.

Luistro and his cabal might be misleading themselves in thinking that when the officers make a move this time, the intervention will be a walk in the park.

One unnamed officer has been reported as saying that the soldiers have not intervened in the present crisis because they wanted first to make sure the people people would back them. According to this report, officers had been discussing among themselves whether to wait for the people to go to the streets, or move in and then ask the people to support them.

The first scenario is possible if Luistro's cohorts, including Aquino, can mobilize a human wave of people on a scale that would impress upon the soldiers the idea that it is time to withdraw support from the President, and for them to tip the balance against the regime. So far, the groups that have been striving to assemble another people power have failed to do so.

Apparently, Luistro reckoned that the Adan controversy could spark a military intervention, after his group of militants failed to ignite a mass street insurrection following the dismissal of the impeachment complaints.

Islam and democracy

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

"HOW CAN MUSLIMS LIVE TODAY IN A CHANGING and secularizing world?" That, said a speaker at the closing plenary of the conference on "Islam and Democratization of Muslim Communities in Southeast Asia: Prospects and Challenges," is the central question confronting Muslim societies around the world today.

But the two-day conference, organized by the Philippine Council for Islam and Democracy, sought not just to find the place of Muslims and Muslim traditions in a world of modernity and globalization, but also to evaluate if democracy had the space to flourish within Muslim societies and systems.

The keynote speaker at the opening dinner, Dr. Surin Pitsuwan, former minister of foreign affairs in Thailand and now a member of parliament as well as a prominent Muslim public servant, said that Muslim communities in the region—whether it is the majority Muslims in Indonesia and Malaysia, or minority Muslim communities in Southern Thailand and the Philippines—must learn how to cope within the democratic framework of their own countries. He emphasized the need to "adopt, adapt and innovate" in a rapidly evolving world, if they are to survive and grow.

Steve Rood, country director for the Philippines of The Asia Foundation, one of the sponsors of the conference, noted that "there are more Muslims in Asia than in the Middle East," holding out hope that the Muslim communities in this part of the globe could provide the world, especially the West, "insights on what it means to be a good Muslim."

Perhaps these insights could also go on to create a "different" face of Islam, a "smiling Islam," as the Indonesians' practice of their faith has been called, with little of the harsh strictures of Saudi Arabia's Wahabism and other forms of fundamentalism. Indeed, said Norhayati Kaprawi of Sisters in Islam, based in Kuala Lumpur, there is a growing clamor in the region for the "de-Arabization" of their societies.

* * *

BUT even as the regional conference, also sponsored by the US Institute of Peace, Center for the Study of Islam and Democracy, Konrad Adenauer Foundation, Magbassa Kita Foundation and UP Institute of Islamic Studies, sought regional commonalities and linkages, Filipino participants couldn't help injecting local concerns into the proceedings.

PCID lead convenor Amina Rasul mentioned the recent appointment of the head of the Mindanao State University. "We had high hopes for the quality of the new president," she said, noting that over 60 respected educators had been interviewed for the post by a review committee. But those hopes were dashed when Malacañang announced that the new MSU president would be a retired police general, appointed allegedly because of "security problems" within the campus.

"The appointment of MSU's president was important to us," said Rasul. "It affects how we view ourselves, how the rest of the country views us, and even how the rest of the world views us Filipino Muslims."

Outgoing ARMM Gov. Parouk Hussin was the keynote speaker at the closing plenary and he had quite a spicy mouthful to say about Philippine politics and the "tensions" within the Muslim community here and in the region, tensions "complicated by the US war on terror which almost exclusively focuses on increasing state control against terrorism."

* * *

HUSSIN clearly disagrees with such a prescription. Terrorism, he said, "must be addressed at its roots." In the Philippines, "terrorists are born in areas of the most abject poverty, where basic services are non-existent and where there is a disconnect between communities and the central authorities."

A former rebel (being a high-ranking official of the Moro National Liberation Front) who had practiced medicine while in exile in Sweden, Hussin decried the fact that the 1994 peace accord between the MNLF and the government has yet to be fully implemented, "especially the socio-economic component." The agreement, he said, was supposed to be fully implemented within three years of its signing, and yet nine years later, excuses were still being offered for the delay in bringing its provisions to reality.

His term as ARMM governor, said Hussin, "was the most difficult task I ever encountered." He confessed that he often felt like resigning during the first three months of his term, having found "our telephone lines cut, our government buried in debt," and the national government telling them there was simply "no money" for their plans and projects.

But because he felt he had to stay on "out of a sense of responsibility and duty," Hussin said he never gave up, tapping friends and colleagues in the international community. "The momentum of governance and peace in ARMM was sustained by the international donor community," he declared, reaping applause when he added that "we brought in more development assistance (into ARMM) than the three previous administrations combined."

* * *

BUT even as the ARMM government partnered with the world's donor community to bring its component provinces, the poorest in the country, up to speed on development, politicians in Mindanao and in Manila were busy imposing imperial control over the region.

Take the recent ARMM elections. The polls, said Hussin, were deemed "peaceful," but, he asked, "was it credible and honest?" Reports of ballot box snatching and voting the night before elections, as well as "statistical improbabilities" like a 99 percent voter turnout in the "poorest, most remote and isolated" towns, tend to cast a cloud of doubt over the credibility of the results and the integrity of the new leadership. Such that he now fears "even the modest achievements we have gained would now go down the drain."

Culture's impact on industry

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

WHEN THE FIRST PHILIPPINE CREATIVE Industry Forum opened at the Cultural Center of the Philippines last week, I planned to attend as an observer. I wanted to hear and learn from the participants, but instead I found myself on the podium delivering remarks that I hoped were useful.

Culture (with a capital "C") is often misunderstood and there is a common misconception that it is something reserved for the rich or the elite, when it should be for everyone. This may explain why culture is often at the very bottom of the government's list of priorities (sometimes I think it's not on the list at all). Since the former Department of Education, Culture and Sports (DECS) was split up, we have yet to have a separate department for culture, sports, higher and technical education. Culture is now under the National Commission for Culture and the Arts, which is slowly learning from the experience of other countries (some smaller and not as developed as the Philippines) where culture does not have a very low priority because they speak the language everyone understands: money.

When artists create music, paintings, sculpture, literature, or film, these are considered under the realm of culture, but when they go into the market and translate their work into money, the culture component seems to disappear and the end product ends up in a different category. The same can be said of handicrafts, interior design, food and fashion, which are acknowledged as economic goods worthy of the Department of Trade and Industry's attention, and being trade goods, they are not considered products of culture or cultural industries anymore.

Why is culture dropped from cultural industries when it turns into money or economic indicators? Perhaps when the government sees and recognizes the economic benefits or impact of culture, it will sit up and pay attention. In the thick Philippine Medium-Term Development Plan, culture is mentioned in one sentence because we have not mapped out the terrain to see how it affects the GDP and GNP. One would wish the situation were different, but there it is.

To see how culture can effect changes in industry, we have to look into the issue of resources—natural, talent and manpower. We all know that the Philippines has a huge pool of talent, that as a people we have the capacity for greatness, but our resources are often underutilized because it is unrecognized or, worse, underdeveloped.

Let me give you some examples. On a visit to Romblon last year, I was shocked to find a beautiful place by the sea and yet the best restaurant in town served me a welcome lunch of Norwegian salmon rather than the fresh catch of the day. I expected fresh fruit for dessert and got fruit fresh out of a can of imported fruit preserves. How can such a situation be possible? Now, that is an element of culture.

After lunch, I went to the market, as is my custom in any place I visit for the first time. One can learn many things from a market in terms of language, products, prices and the distinct ways that merchants display everything, from rubber slippers to dried fish. Walking through the tourist part of Romblon market, it was fairly obvious that everyone sold the same thing: Romblon marble. It may not be Carrara marble, but taken on its own merits, it was worth acquiring.

What did the people in this sleepy town do with their marble? They made them into tombstones, mortar and pestle. As a tourist, I asked myself: How many *lapida* and *dikdikan* do I want? How many *lapida* and *dikdikan* do I need? Come to think of it, how many *lapidas* and *dikdikans* do they sell in a year? Here is a region that has skilled manpower and an almost inexhaustible natural resource, but their products are unimaginative. If culture comes in to introduce new designs and new uses of Romblon marble, that would go a long way in developing the industry and the province.

The same can be said of Baguio. On my way there recently, I noticed what people take back with them from a trip to the summer capital: brooms, fresh vegetables, jars of strawberry jam/jelly, peanut brittle and *jaleyang ube*. Fortunately, the market for those asthma-causing dust gatherers known as "everlasting" dried flowers has dwindled.

In the Baguio market or a tourist trap like Mines View Park, the bestsellers are: filigree silver objects, Cordillera woven blankets (which ignorant lowlanders use as accent pieces, not knowing that the most popular designs happen to be death blankets; what was woven to wrap a mummy or a corpse are now used as bedspreads). The giant narra spoon and fork that decorate many Filipino homes are concrete proof that our ancestors in the Cordilleras were giants. Last but not least, there is the "man in the barrel" and those erect wooden penises with scrotums that double as ashtrays. Those interested in the fairer sex can buy a wooden naked lady made into a back-scratcher or, better still, a model with moving legs that double as "nut crackers."

Here we have another example of skilled manpower and wood supply, but look at the end products. That again is an issue for culture and cultural industries. The impact of culture on trade and industry has not yet been measured.

(To be concluded on Friday)

* * *

Comments are welcome at aocampo@ateneo.edu

Diliman's birds

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

LAST SUNDAY, I WENT BIRD-HUNTING WITH ABOUT A dozen people at UP Diliman, armed with binoculars, scopes and cameras.

Many of us have seen and admired birds in zoos and aviaries. At UP Diliman, we were "birding," which is observing birds out in their natural habitats. In many ways, birding is similar to hunting because you have to move around carefully and quietly, even as your senses are on alert for the rustle of leaves on a tree, or for the many different bird calls, some barely perceptible.

The birding expedition was organized by the Wild Bird Society of the Philippines, which has monthly introductory trips for beginners, a way too of getting people hooked on birding and, more, to join them in campaigning to protect the birds.

Captured humans

I'm sure some of you are surprised that you can do birding in Metro Manila. One of our guides, Gerry de Villa (who teaches philosophy at UP), says their members have been able to spot 82 different species of birds within the UP Diliman campus alone, and they have photographs of 72 of them.

Our Sunday expedition, which lasted only two hours, yielded only a few species but I was perfectly happy. Birds have a way of turning the tables around and "capturing" humans.

One of the first birds we sighted was an oriole with bright yellow feathers. For about 15 minutes, it transformed us into something like pigeons, cooing away in quiet admiration.

The UP Diliman campus has many other colorful birds, including a parrot that's listed in books as the *colasisi*, which has a fiery red head, beak and rump. Yes, its name, spelled *kulasisi* in Tagalog, has since been appropriated to refer to certain women because of their resemblance to the bird's seductive colors.

But it isn't just the birds' colorful plumage that fascinates humans. That afternoon at Diliman, one spell-binder was the very ordinary barred rail, which kept us watching for several minutes as it went its leisurely way around the brush. The bird is known in Tagalog as *tikling* because of its call. It is also this same *tikling*, with its awkwardly graceful movements, that gave us the tinikling dance.

The birds we saw that afternoon included the yellow bittern, Richard's pipit, various shrikes and fantails, a blue rock-thrush, and even a raptor, the Eurasian kestrel. Then, too, there were the Eurasian tree sparrow and the chestnut munia, better known to most of us simply as the maya.

Some of the birds we saw in fairly good detail through our binoculars and scopes; others we could see only in outline as they darted across the skies. Still others, which I didn't list, we only heard. Gerry, it turns out, was a hunter in another life and can tell, as well as imitate, the bird calls. (It got to the point where I'd ask myself, when I'd hear something, "Is it a bird? Or is it Gerry?")

Urban birds

I am still amazed thinking now of how many birds you can find within cities. Gerry told me there was even a resident owl in Benton Hall, where I hold office. But then UP Diliman is a botanical and zoological paradise within Metro Manila.

To be fair, our neighbor Ateneo de Manila hosts quite a few birds too, including the *kulasisi*. They also have some species not found in UP. No, it's not ideology or religion but the terrain: Ateneo has cliffs, which attract a different group of birds from those of UP.

It isn't just Ateneo and UP that provide havens for birds. Residential subdivisions, especially if they have many trees, can still host many types of birds. You only have to be more observant to what's in your own backyard, and learn to identify them. There are a few books now that you can get. The Wild Bird Society's "bible" is "A Guide to the Birds of the Philippines" by Robert S. Kennedy, Pedro Gonzales, Edward Dickinson, Hector Miranda Jr. and Timothy Fisher.

City birding can be moving: you realize what treasures we have, and then begin to fret and ask, "How long will they last?" Gerry worries about UP Diliman, which has a day population of as many as 60,000 people crammed into its 490 hectares. Dr. Sergio S. Cao, whose investiture as the new Diliman chancellor took place just last Sept. 7, has a daunting job ahead of keeping the campus safe for people—and nature.

Children

Our birding expedition had a few children, which led me to ask the organizers what their minimum age was. Mike Lu, one of the organization's leaders, laughed, "We've even had them on strollers."

And why not? Start them young to appreciate the birds, and nature. Birds help us to explain nature's intricate biological webs, and how we are all dependent on each other. They're also fine examples of evolution, every anatomical part—their beaks, plumage, wing spans—telling us something about how they've adapted to a particular niche.

The birds offer us philosophical insights, too. Some of these birds are ever so tiny and yet are able to navigate across thousands of miles. The INQUIRER recently had an article about the "miraculous" birds of Candaba, which are actually migratory birds making their way toward the south and pausing in Pampanga. We've, of course, read religious meanings into their stopover.

Some time back, a friend told me he was building bird cages in his home, in anticipation of a new baby. He had visions of entertaining his child with cages of maya and parrots.

I was horrified. From a public health angle, having birds within homes isn't very healthy; some children may have allergies to the feathers, but more than that, there can be airborne respiratory infections from the birds.

Worst of all, caged birds reinforce the terrible human compulsion to acquire and to own something that's beautiful, even if it means shooting them down. I remember that as kids, during our family reunions, the sighting of birds in my grandparents' garden would send some of my male cousins rushing into the house for their slingshots and air guns.

Birding teaches a respect for all forms of life, even as it gives us a reason to get kids out of house, weaning them away from their Play Stations and television. The kids on our birding expedition were clearly thrilled, and I'm sure they'll be asking to join more trips.

Even after you get home, there's much you can do around birds. The Wild Bird Society has an excellent webpage (www.birdwatch.ph) which includes photo galleries of birds, schedules of activities and contact information, including those of birders outside of Manila. You have them in Baguio, Balanga, Iloilo, Cabanatuan, Cebu and Davao.

Don't forget to get the kids off the computer after visiting the birdwatch site. Get some discussions going around birds, spicing up your stories with songs that have references to birds. There's the whimsical but sad "Ang Pipit" which tells about how some cruel kid stones a bird. You can use this to teach children to be kinder to birds and animals in general.

Now, too, is a good time to revive "Bayan Ko," with its metaphor of an oppressed people being similar to birds in captivity.

Lonely and forgotten soldier deserves better

MAY I CALL THE ATTENTION OF the concerned authorities to a pensioner-claimant by the name of Jeroligito A. Quinagon. He has requested the AFP Finance Center, Pension and Gratuity Branch, Camp Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City, for the "Consolidation Pension." Due to his spouse's death last Dec. 12, 2003, her (wife's) pension was stopped. It should have been transferred to the surviving spouse. However, for almost two years now, in spite of repeated written requests sent to that office, there has been no answer.

Do pensioners who spent the best years of their lives for the cause of freedom and liberty deserve this? Many of them are too old to work and most of them are in poor health. They deserve better. What is causing so much delay?

It is our fervent prayer that this problem find its resolution. To the office concerned, please take immediate action on this matter.

—PABLITO I. QUIAMBAO,
Poblacio East, Bautista,
Pangasinan 2424

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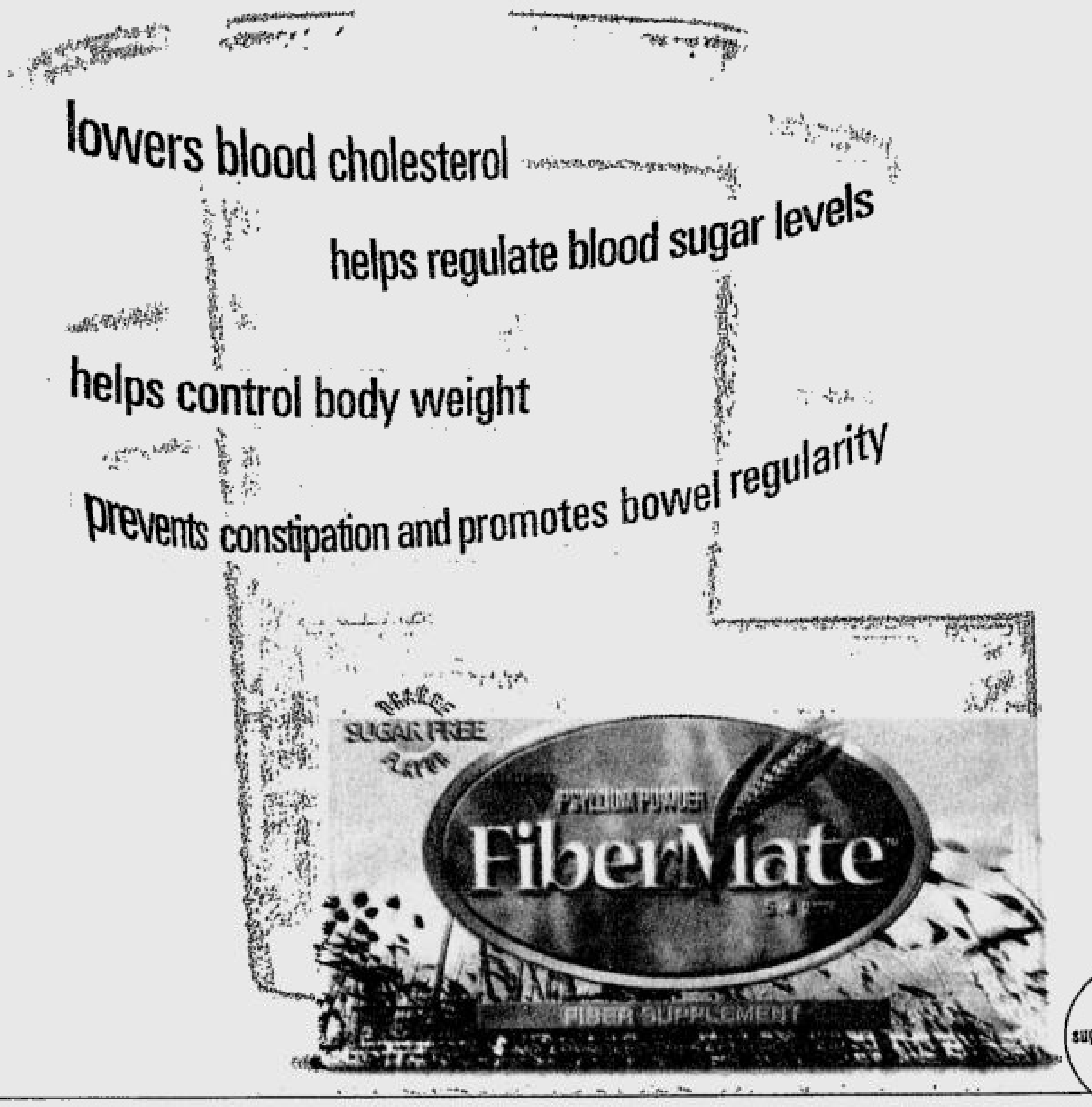

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Getting to Know Fiber

Q: What is dietary fiber?
A: Dietary fiber is a complex carbohydrate found in plants that, when ingested, is not digested but excreted from the body.

Q: Why is fiber important in my diet?
A: Fiber is important because it offers a lot of health benefits: lowers blood cholesterol, helps regulate blood sugar levels, helps control body weight, prevents constipation and promotes bowel regularity

Q: Where can I get fiber?
A: Fruits and vegetables are great sources of fiber. It can also be obtained from wheat, barley, rye, corn and rice, and other whole-grain foods. However, there are also readily-available fiber supplements, in the market, like FiberMate, to help augment your daily fiber requirement.

Q: What is Fibermate and how does FiberMate work?
A: Fibermate is a dietary fiber supplement containing psyllium, one of the best sources of dietary fiber. When dissolved in water and ingested, it becomes a gelatinous mass and swells up to 20 times its volume. It traps toxins and harmful residues and flushes them out together with the stool.

Q. How does FiberMate help lower blood cholesterol?
A: It binds with the cholesterol-containing bile acids in the gastrointestinal tract and carries them out of the body as waste. This lowers both total and bad cholesterol levels in the blood - thus reducing the risk of heart disease.

Q: How does Fibermate help regulate blood sugar levels?
A: FiberMate slows down the absorption of carbohydrates so blood sugar is prevented from rising steeply after a meal.

Q: How does Fibermate help control body weight?
A: When FiberMate is taken at least 30 minutes before a meal, it creates a feeling of fullness, thus resulting in less food intake. It also contains very minimal calories.

Q: How does FiberMate help in relieving constipation?
A: FiberMate increases the bulk of the stools and stimulates the large intestines to contract. Because stools are softer and bulkier, evacuation is easier, thus minimizing the strain that usually causes hemorrhoids.

Q: How do I take FiberMate?
A: Mix a heaping teaspoon of FiberMate with a glass of cold water and drink immediately. Drink another glass of water right after. Those taking other medicines should drink FiberMate at least 1 hour before or 2 hours after medicine intake. When taking FiberMate, be sure to drink more water (6 to 8 glasses) to maintain fluid balance.

Q: How much Fibermate do I need in a day?
A: In addition to your regular diet, drinking FiberMate 1 to 3 times daily can help you reach the recommended fiber intake of 25 to 35 grams a day*.

*Source US FDA

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MLQ's legacy vs GMA's 'Hello, Garci'

I AM WRITING THIS WHILE watching on TV members of the House of Representatives defend their votes on the justice committee report that dismissed the impeachment complaints against Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. The on going tally of votes shows: Yes—120; No—40; Abstain—4.

Even before this, I have heard several times some representatives prove themselves before the TV cameras how truly narrow-minded they are, to say the least. I am also happy to know there are still good politicians out there, although they are greatly outnumbered by those who are just pretending to be leaders of the Filipino people.

One congresswoman explained that she had decided "to support my committee because going against their stand would mean that I am abusing my authority. I therefore vote yes."

The Disney film "Bambi" taught me: "If you can't say something nice, don't say nothing at all." I seriously believe that she should've just declared her vote and, thereafter, immediately sat down.

Then I heard a congressman say: "Former President Manuel L. Quezon once said, 'My loyalty to my party ends where my loyalty to my country begins.' With that said, I vote no."

God bless that man. I am truly grateful that he chose to resurrect such wisdom from our own history. I'm not sure that Manuel L. Quezon was the best president of the Philippines, but he sure did leave words of wisdom we could live by from day to day.

How about Ms Arroyo? The only words she is leaving us are: "Hello, Garci?" and "I... am... sorry."

—LESLIE L. PEREZ,
llperez@gmail.com

P721B out of P1.05T budget to be used for payment of national debt

THIS IS TO MAKE A CORRECTION on the editorial, "The other numbers game," (PDI, 8/28/05) which pointed out that based on the proposed 2006 national budget, P340 billion has been earmarked for the payment of both the interest and the principal of the country's debt.

The amount has been automatically appropriated for interest payments only. The "off-budget" principal amortizations, on the other hand, amount to P381 billion. This means that the total debt service for next year will be P721 billion or P1.98 billion a day or P1.37 million a minute!

The Freedom from Debt Coalition (FDC) had hoped that the trillion-peso budget would serve the interests of Filipinos. On the contrary, Malacañang sees it fit to make use of public money for the benefit of the creditors first.

In the proposed budget, the people will have to content themselves with P293 billion for social services. This means that for each of the 85 million Filipinos, a measly P3,400 has been allocated for social services. This, while the government takes away from each of them P8,400 because every peso allocated to debt servicing is a peso taken away from social services which our people badly need. The continued prioritization of the debt has undermined the nation's capacity to grow and has robbed the people of their chance to get out of poverty.

The P721 billion includes payments due on anomalous government contracts, such as the Bataan Nuclear Power Plant and the Casecnan Power Project. For these two projects alone, we pay billions of pesos, but neither of these benefit the people. The Napocor debts add to the current burden of payments—payments which could be put to better use if only the government has the heart and the will to do something about debt servicing.

The country stands to benefit from canceling existing payments due on anomalous and illegitimate debts. These include all the behest loans assumed in 1986, the onerous benefits awarded to independent power producers (IPPs) that form part of the Napocor debts absorbed by the national government last year, and many other liabilities arising from crony deals made under the Ramos, Estrada and Arroyo administrations.

In conclusion, the government can do many things with a P1.05 trillion budget, but Congress should ensure that this benefits neither Ms Arroyo nor the creditors, but the Filipino people.

—MILO N. TANCHULING,
secretary general,
Freedom from Debt Coalition,
34 Matiaga St.,
Central District, Quezon City

Fake representatives, genuine 'trapos'

THE CURRENT POLITICAL SCENARIO in the Philippines has been painfully difficult to bear. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo has used all the resources of the government, including the House of Representatives, just to keep herself in power, never mind the Filipinos' overwhelming clamor for her to resign. Her decisions in the last three months were only meant to ensure her political survival.

Why is Ms Arroyo so determined to cling to power? Surely, it isn't her love for our country. It is because power has so corrupted and intoxicated her. So she holds on to it, anyway, she can always count on the opportunism and blind loyalty of most of the congressmen.

The House of Representatives has again proven itself as an institution dominated by traditional politicians, people with no ideals and principles, people who value personal interests above the country's. Like Speaker Jose de Venecia and Rep. Prospero Pichay who helped perpetuate lying and suppress the truth. This is not to say that there are no good men and women in the House. God bless the idealistic and principled congressmen in the House, like Francis Escudero, Alan Peter Cayetano and Darlene Antonino-Custodio.

It was very painful and deeply frustrating to watch the impeachment proceedings. For a while, you would think that the *trapo* members of the House majority coalition were Ms Arroyo's lawyers. In the guise of following the rule of law, they wielded the tyranny of numbers to quash the truth.

Eighty percent of Filipinos want Ms Arroyo to leave the presidency now. How can one reconcile that with the fact that 73 percent of the House members rejected the impeachment complaint? How can the representatives now claim they are the voice of the people when their votes do not express the people's sentiments?

If we had more conscientious and morally upright lawmakers in the House, we would not have had a farcical impeachment proceeding. Our country is now in the abyss of political degeneration and moral corruption.

In the next elections, we should vote for candidates who represent integrity and honesty. Let us educate our countrymen and persuade them to banish the *trapos* from the House and the Senate. Names like De Venecia, Pichay and Datumanong should be remembered in connection with the suppression of the truth. Enough of the *trapos*. Only then can we raise the quality of our country's political life.

—JUN R. RUIZ,
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Bicol cordoned off due to coco pest

PILI, CAMARINES SUR—THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULture has cordoned off agricultural products' land and sea routes going in and out of Bicol to spare the region from the fast spreading new pest that infects coconut trees in Southern Tagalog, Central Luzon and Metro Manila.

Hector Sales, DA regional director, said the pest is a beetle—a kind that feeds on the shoots of coconut trees, dries them up and starts the tree's decay.

In the long-term, the beetle pest commonly known as palm leaf beetle or coconut leaf beetle (*Brontispa longissima*) and its larvae kill the coconut tree.

When mature, the beetle pest has a yellow-orange to red color of the neck, measuring 7.5-10 mm long and 1.5-2 mm wide.

The beetle pest has a life span of 75 to 90 days upon maturity that makes it very destructive for coconut trees.

The infected trees are deprived of flowering and bearing fruits or, if ever the trees overcome infection and bear fruits, young leaves are destroyed.

Sales said the DA regional office here had already directed the Regional Crop Protection Center to include coconut shoots, other palm plants and coconut lumber among items that would be subject to thorough inspection and quarantine.

"The eggs of the beetle pest are difficult to detect because they are inserted in between leaflets that's why planting materials, including ornaments intended for transport to areas free of the pest, must be inspected well," he said.

The DA director said he was confident the DA could prevent the spread of the beetle pest in areas with documented cases in Candelaria, Quezon, Laguna Bay areas and San Vicente, Lipa City.

He said the beetle pest outbreak has also been reported in coconut trees on Roxas Boulevard in Manila while it had started to ravage palms in Cavite, Batangas, Laguna and Bulacan.

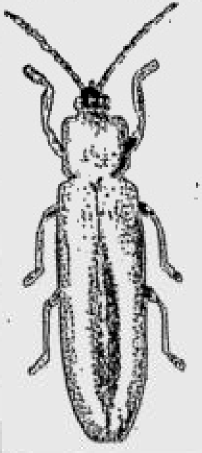
The *Brontispa longissima* is endemic in Indonesia and Papua New Guinea and believed to have been introduced to the country in 2004 through the importation of ornamental palms.

Sales said after the detection of the infection of the *Brontispa longissima* in April, the DA national office organized the Brontispa Action Team to respond to the threat of the beetle pest.

He said in Bicol, the DA already has the mechanism to check the spread of the beetle pest into the region with existing foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) checkpoints in strategic entrances and exits in the region.

Sales said the FMD checkpoints were to be reinforced with personnel and include laboratory and research specialists to be on call. *Juan Escandor Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Beetle ***(Brontispa longissima)***



- Infects coconut trees in Southern Tagalog, Central Luzon and Metro Manila.
- Feeds on the shoots of coconut trees, dries them up and starts the tree's decay.
- When mature, the beetle pest has a yellow-orange to red color of the neck. Measures 7.5-10 mm long and 1.5-2 mm wide.
- Lifespan: 75 to 90 days upon maturity

ROUNDUP

Wildlife sanctuary declared

WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

TUGUEGARAO CITY—The wildlife sanctuary at Barangay San Antonio in Roxas, Isabela, has been declared both a tree park and wildlife sanctuary, according to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources here. The sanctuary hosts two lagoons—Lake Baddie and Dakal—and boasts of a 100-hectare grassland which has become a feeding and mating place of migratory birds. The Japan Bank for International Cooperation donated money to develop 30 ha of the sanctuary. *Estanislao Caldez, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Village chief killed

ILAGAN, Isabela—A village chief in Gamu town was shot and killed on Sunday in what police said was an ambush by suspected communist rebels. Police said Jaime Baliwag, 52, barangay captain of Dammao in Gamu, died instantly. His mini Elf was full of bullets from M-16 Armalite rifles and .45 cal. pistols. Investigators were also looking into land dispute as a possible motive of the attack. *Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Village exec slain

ORANI, Bataan—The secretary of Barangay Tala here was shot and killed by two men on Monday. Police said Romualdo Flores, 30, had just bought porridge from a nearby eatery at about 5:30 a.m. when the gunmen arrived at his father-in-law's house in Barangay Tugatog and attacked him. Flores died instantly from nine bullet wounds in the head, neck, shoulder and abdomen. *Greg Refraccion, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Marijuana uprooted

CAMP OLIVAS, Pampanga—Police and Army soldiers uprooted and destroyed 2,000 marijuana plants in Carranglan, Nueva Ecija, on Sunday. The haul in the Sierra Madre portion of Barangay Piut in Carranglan was the biggest in the last six years, Nueva Ecija police director Senior Supt. Alex Monteagudo told the INQUIRER. This, however, was not an indication that the cultivation and trade of marijuana had shifted to Nueva Ecija from the Cordillera, he said. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Co-ops get funds

FROM D.A. W/ LOVE

PILI, Camarines Sur—The Department of Agriculture office in Bicol has released P390,250 to the San Rafael Development Cooperative and Tinapian Farmers and Fisherfolk Multi-Purpose Cooperative, program beneficiaries of the department's Livelihood Enhancement for Agricultural Development (Lead). The cooperatives received P199,850 to finance a soft broom production project. The Tinapian cooperative received P90,400. The checks were handed early this month in the presence of Mayor Carmencita Daep of Manito, Albay where the two beneficiary-cooperatives operate. *Juan Escandor Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Tilapia processing

LOS BAÑOS, Laguna—To promote fishery technologies in the countryside and to reach out to the small fisherfolk, fish processors and small and medium entrepreneurs, the Philippine Council for Aquatic and Marine Resources Research and Development (PCAMRD) held a training on "tilanggit" production or tilapia processing recently at its Aquamart in Los Baños, Laguna. The training aimed to provide livelihood opportunities not only to entrepreneurs but also to out-of-school youths, unemployed and housewives. It also demonstrated the process of tilanggit production, encouraged existing tilapia growers and fish processors to venture on it as a new processed fish product for local markets, and assisted the processors and the entrepreneurs in implementing quality assurance practices for tilapia processing production. The training was attended by participants from Metro Manila, Bohol, Bulacan and Ilocos Norte. Dr. Dalisay D.G. Fernandez of PCAMRD and Natividad B. Efondo of the Freshwater Fisheries Research Station of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources in Bambang, Los Baños, Laguna served as resource persons in the training. *Romulo O. Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

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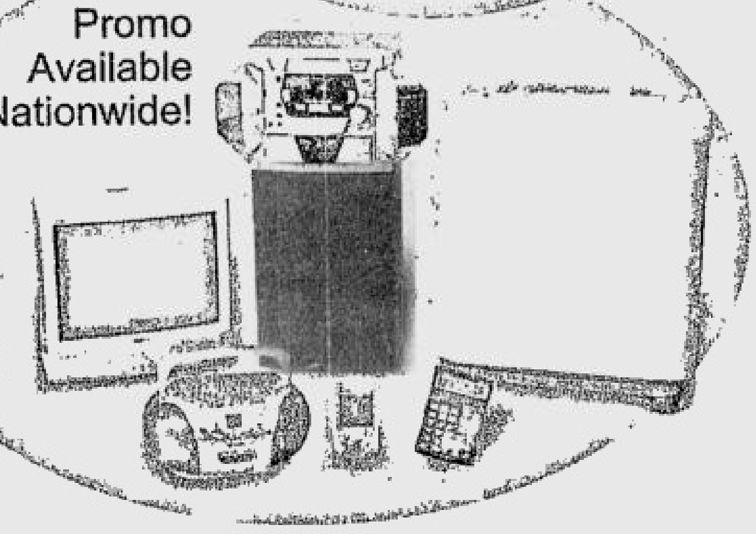
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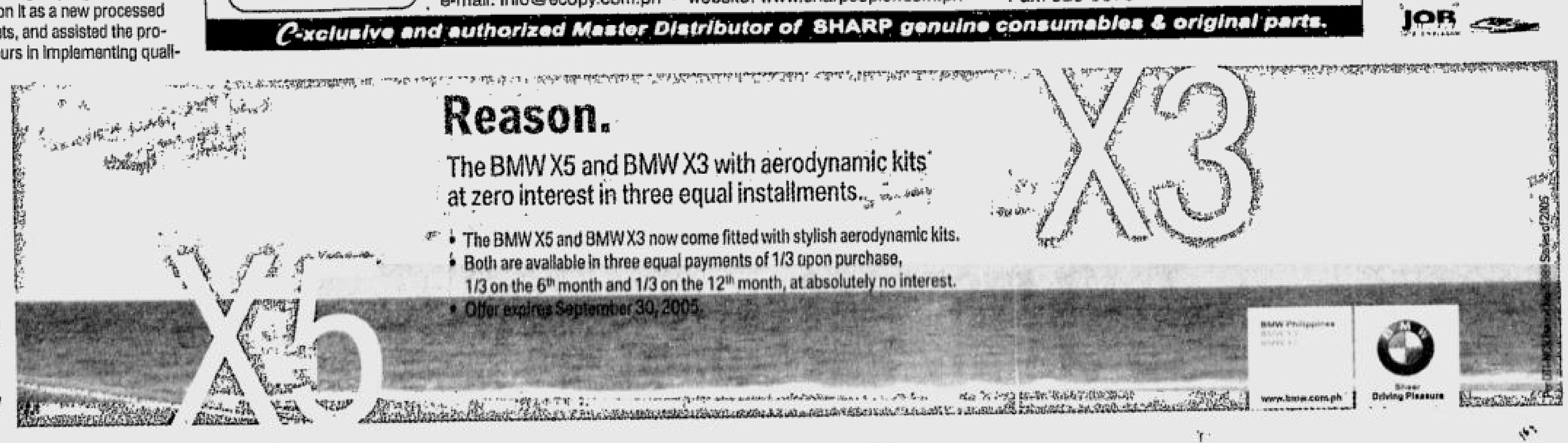

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Hike in terminal fees looms in ports nationwide

OZAMIZ CITY—AN INCREASE IN terminal fees charged to passengers of sea vessels looms in ports run by the Philippine Ports Authority (PPA) throughout the country.

This move is part of the PPA's target of raising more revenues.

Because of this, public hearings are being undertaken among various stakeholders of PPA-operated ports nationwide. Last Friday, the PPA conducted its public hearing here.

According to engineer Necitas Layola, Ozamiz port manager, an increase in terminal fee is the principal avenue for the PPA to raise its earnings.

Layola said fixing the amount of terminal fees is not regulated by law, except for the procedures, like public consultations, that need to be followed before new rates are imposed.

Its other revenue base, like tariff on cargo, is fixed by law, he added.

It is not yet known how much the PPA expects to raise terminal fees.

By levying new rates on an estimated 312,000 passengers of inter-island vessels and 1.1 million ferry passengers in a year, the Ozamiz port hopes to make nearly P8 million in revenues annually, up from the current P5 million.

Based on a PPA presentation, the plan would entail an increase of terminal fees from 50 percent to 1,150 percent in northern Mindanao, depending on the port location.

The largest increase is in the ports of Cagayan de Oro and Iligan cities. From the current terminal fee of P2 per passenger, the two ports are asking for a P23 increase, bringing it to P25.

In the port of Nasipit in Agusan del Norte, the current P2 terminal fee is to be raised to P20, a 900-percent rise; while a P10 fee in Surigao will be raised to P20.

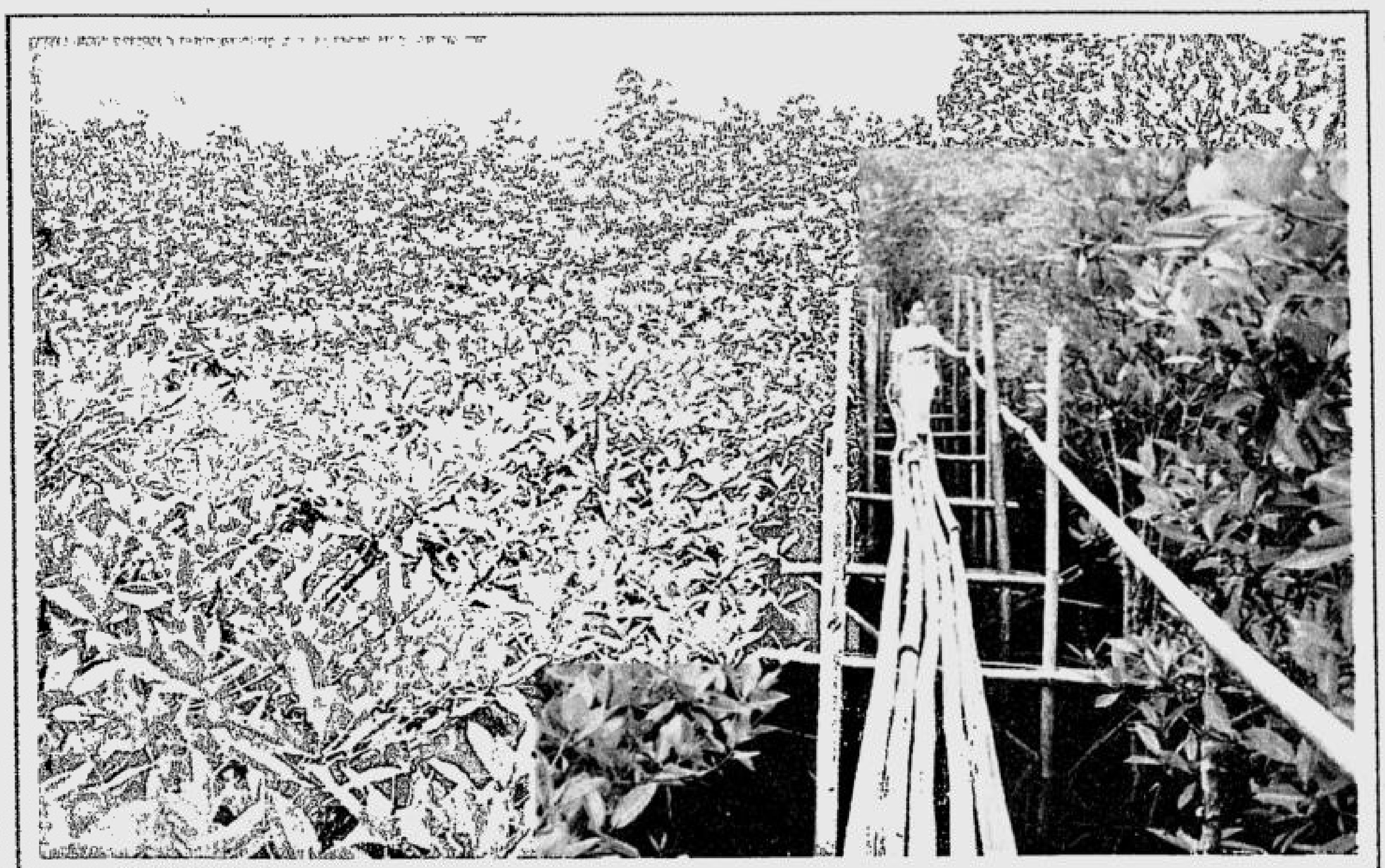
The most conservative increase is planned in the port here at only 50 percent above current rates. From the present P2 charged to passengers of a ferry service, it will be raised to P3.

The terminal fee charged to passengers of inter-island vessels will be raised to P15, up by P5 from the current rate of P10.

The increase follows PPA investments on baggage X-ray scanners and walk-through metal detectors, both costing over P7 million, installed in most ports' passenger terminals to boost security measures against terrorist attacks.

Archie Lazaro, economic development specialist of the National Economic and Development Authority, suggested that the planned increase be shared by both passengers and shipping companies.

Lazaro said improved security has greatly aided shipping companies. *Ryan D. Rosauro, PDI Mindanao Bureau*



MANGROVE WALK
A bamboo bridge cuts across a mangrove forest in Maasin City, Southern Leyte.
YVETTE LEE/CONTRIBUTOR

Man, brother charged with rape-slay of girl, 13

By Jhunnex Napallacan
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—POLICE YESTERDAY FILED criminal charges against the father and an uncle of a 13-year-old girl who allegedly raped and killed her last week in Carcar town, at least 45 km south of this city.

A complaint of rape with parricide was filed against Maximo Laputan, 40, at the Cebu Provincial Prosecutor's Office for the rape-slaying of his daughter, Mylen.

Laputan's elder brother, Concordio, 46, was charged with rape with homicide, said Supt. Vicente Loot, acting chief of the Cebu provincial police office.

He said the two were also charged with direct assault for fighting with policemen who went to their home in Sitio Kamang-kamang, Barangay Ocaña, Carcar, to arrest them last Saturday.

Mylen, fourth of five siblings, was reported missing in the evening of Sept. 6 after she was asked to buy a kilo of rice for the family's supper.

But the girl did not come home. Her body was found on Thursday morning in a cornfield about 100 meters from their house.

The girl suffered eight stab wounds—six in the front and two at the back. Medico-legal officers confirmed that she had been raped.

Maximo and Concordio were tagged when their cousin, Ronnie Tabura, went to the police and admitted that he was with the two when they attacked the girl.

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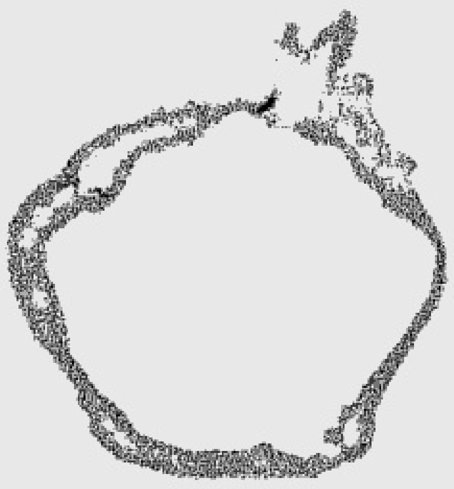

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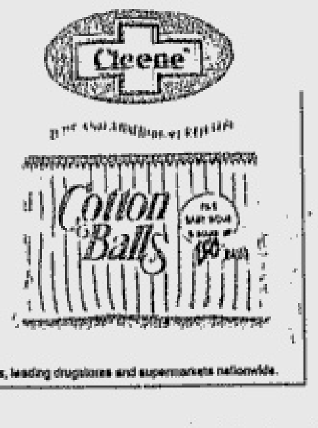

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Doc, Pacquiao fan, dies after watching idol's boxing match

TIWI, ALBAY—AN AVID FAN OF boxing idol Manny Pacquiao was knocked down by high blood pressure during the first round of Pacquiao's fight against Mexican Hector Velasquez on Sunday (Manila time).

Dr. Bernardo Corral, 73, director of the St. Claire Medical Hospital in this town, died at about 2 p.m. Sunday after he was transferred to the Amando Cope General Hospital in nearby Tabaco City due to cerebral hemorrhage.

Dr. Silverio Cope, attending physician, said Corral suffered a stroke due to high blood pressure.

Corral, father of this town's Vice Mayor Ruth Corral and husband of the late Mayor Naomi Corral, was a boxing enthusiast, said sister Vivencia Avellano.

Avellano said that at around 9 a.m., Corral and his son Bernardo Jr. were watching Pacquiao's fight in the Internet to make sure that he would be the first to know the result of the boxing bout, which he planned to air over their radio station Radyo Natin here.

She said her brother was so excited and was so tense while watching the first round.

She said Bernardo Jr. had also been observed laughing at his father who was also performing jabs as if he was the one fighting all alone.

Corral was even noted to be shouting once Velasquez would exchange strong punches with Pacquiao.

At the end of the first round, Corral fell down with closed fists.

Avellano said her brother complained of dizziness that prompted them to bring him to Tabaco City.

She said Corral probably got nervous because Velasquez showed his strength during the first salvo.

Corral was an avid fan of Pacquiao and never missed any fight of the boxing idol, the sister added.

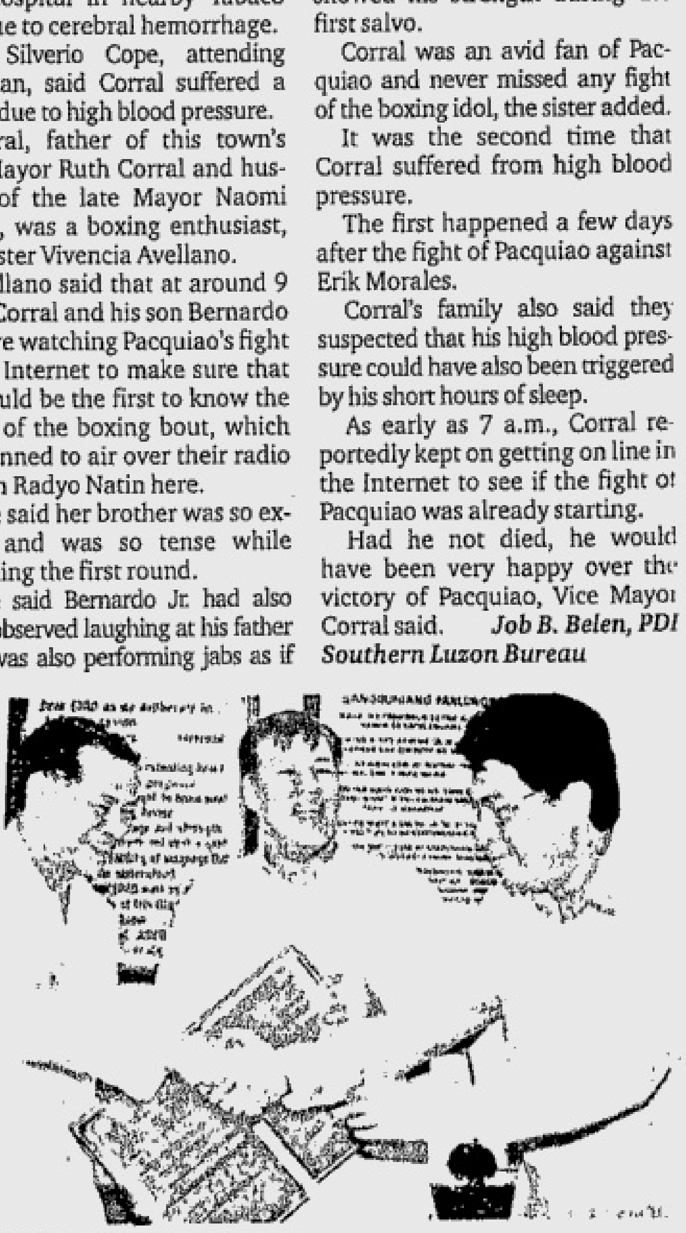
It was the second time that Corral suffered from high blood pressure.

The first happened a few days after the fight of Pacquiao against Erik Morales.

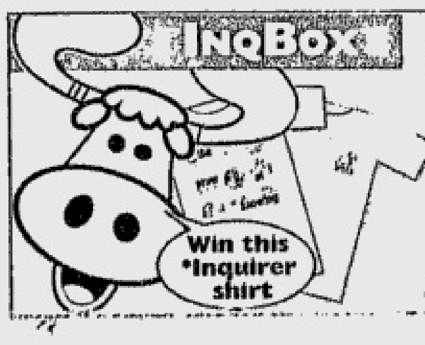
Corral's family also said they suspected that his high blood pressure could have also been triggered by his short hours of sleep.

As early as 7 a.m., Corral reportedly kept on getting on line in the Internet to see if the fight of Pacquiao was already starting.

Had he not died, he would have been very happy over the victory of Pacquiao, Vice Mayor Corral said. *Job B. Belen, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*



NAGA NATIVE HONORED
CONTRIBUTED PHO
Mayor Jesse Robredo (center) and Vice Mayor Gabriel Bordado Jr. (right) hand over a copy of City Resolution No. 2005-272 to tycoon Lucio C. Tan (left) conferring upon him the highest honor given by the city to a Naga native.



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Question of the Week

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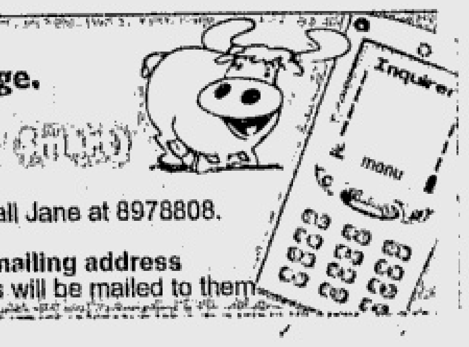

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INQUIRER Northern Luzon

Editor Jun Bandayrel
Bureau Chief Rolando B. Fernandez

War veterans yearn for recognition

By Melvin Gascon
Kiangan, Ifugao

IT HAS BEEN 60 YEARS since the end of World War II but surviving Filipino war veterans have yet to receive full recognition from both the Philippine and United States governments.

Thus lamented retired Col. Santiago Balajo, who, at 95, is the oldest living Filipino officer of the guerrilla forces that helped force Japanese Gen. Tomoyuki Yamashita to surrender and end the war in 1945.

Balajo was awarded a commemorative badge by President Macapagal-Arroyo during the 60th anniversary of what was known as "Victory Day" on Sept. 2 at the Kiangan Central School grounds in Kiangan, Ifugao.

But aside from the medals and badges and the "meager" monthly pension from the Philippine Veterans' Affairs Office, Balajo lamented that he has not received the privileges given to other war veterans.

"I am just sorry because until now, I have not yet been recognized by the US government [to receive benefits] for my four years of service during the war," he said when asked how he felt after receiving the badge.

He brought with him original documents which, he said, would prove that he had earlier been listed and acknowledged as an officer of the US Army.

"I even went to America just for this [purpose], but nothing happened," he said.

BALAJO MELVIN GASCON

During the ceremonies, Balajo took the opportunity to show his set of documents to Sen. Richard Gordon, who, he said, had promised to help him with his recognition.

But save for about a minute of fame when he was called to receive his badge, Balajo was hardly a recognizable figure during the event.

Just as Ms Arroyo arrived, local organizers of the program had to seek permission from the Presidential Management Staff for Balajo to take his place among the dignitaries seated onstage. He was subsequently allowed to sit at the back row.

Balajo was forced to leave his post as mayor of Mayoyao town, then of Mt. Province and now of Ifugao, when war broke out in 1941. He formed a guerrilla unit that would later fight what historians described as among the fiercest battles fought during the last stages of World War II.

While Filipinos were being acknowledged for helping force Yamashita's surrender, Balajo, then a company commander, never saw the Japanese general.

"Filipino soldiers were not allowed to see him. I and my men were brought away as far as Isabela," he said. "I believe it was for security reasons. [The Americans] explained that many Filipinos were very angry at them that our fellow Filipino soldiers might hurt them."

Asked whether he still felt that anger, Balajo said: "The wound has healed."

Batac or Libingan burial?

By Cristina Arzadon
Batac, Ilocos Norte

BEFORE FORMER FIRST LADY Imelda Marcos presses any harder on the burial of her husband, the late strongman Ferdinand Marcos, at the Libingan ng mga Bayani, she might want to listen to the Ilocanos' sentiments on the issue.

During Marcos' 88th birth anniversary on Sunday, Imelda said it was only a matter of time that her husband would be buried at the heroes' cemetery in Makati City.

Marcos' remains have been preserved in a glass coffin in an air-conditioned mausoleum at the family's compound in Batac, Ilocos Norte, since 1993.

Except for then President Joseph Estrada, no other sitting president since 1993 has allowed the burial of Marcos' body at the Libingan.

After 12 years of failed attempts, Imelda appears certain this year will be a lucky one.

"Eight is my lucky number. I am very confident he will be buried because everybody will be forced to do right. This is a sacred right of an individual to have an honorable burial," she said on the eve of her husband's birthday.

"While they refuse to bury Marcos, the more that the truth is coming out. They should be afraid of the curse," she said without elaborating.

A million signatures

The widow said her desire for a Libingan burial for her husband is backed by a million signatures gathered by members of the Friends of Imelda Romualdez-Marcos (FIRM) across the country. The signatures will be presented to President Macapagal-Arroyo for her consideration.

Artemio Lachica, FIRM president, said Marcos loyalists would have asked Ms Arroyo to allow the burial on Sept. 11 but it was against tradition to bury a person on his birthday.

"So we will ask [Ms Arroyo] to allow the burial at the Libingan on Marcos' death anniversary on Sept. 28. If she refuses, we will keep on begging her to do what is right. We are sure the President will agree in the spirit of reconciliation. [Ms Arroyo] has been saying she [wants] reconciliation," Lachica said.

FORMER first lady Imelda Marcos kisses the glass crypt containing the preserved body of her late husband, Ferdinand Marcos, inside a mausoleum in Batac, Ilocos Norte. REUTERS

Told that the Ilocanos were against the plan to transfer Marcos' remains from Batac to Metro Manila, Lachica said: "Then they are not real Ilocanos. We must understand that he was a former president. We should not deny him his right to have a hero's burial."

But Ilocos Norte Board Member Elena Nalupta, a former Batac mayor, does not agree.

Nalupta, who as mayor proposed a park at the heart of the town as a burial site, said it had always been the position of her townmates to keep the body in his hometown.

"It is to the best interest of the president that he remains in Batac. If he is transferred at the Libingan, we fear that his enemies will only desecrate his tomb. We will not allow anyone to trample upon his burial place," she said.

Sacred

"[The] Ilocanos hold the dead sacred. And since we love Marcos dearly, we want to shower him affection even in his second life," she added.

Her son, Batac Councilor Ronald Allan Nalupta, has proposed a 12-hectare lot in Barangay Billoca as an appropriate gravesite. The government-owned lot is along the national road beside a lake.

Councilor Nalupta is reportedly filing a resolution asking the Marcos family to consider the area for burial.

Board Member Da Vinci Crisostomo, whose house is across the Marcos compound, agrees that more Ilocanos prefer Batac as the final resting place for the strongman.

"Those who are emotional on the issue want Marcos to stay in Batac. But those who know the law support a hero's burial," he said.

But Crisostomo, a lawyer, said the late president must be given a hero's burial as a matter of right and as provided for by law.

"By law, he must be buried at the Libingan ng mga Bayani as a former president and war veteran. It is only at the Libingan and there's no other place. That must settle everything," he said.

Crisostomo recalled that it was by force that Marcos' body was brought to Batac in 1993 after living in exile in Hawaii. Marcos died in 1989 in Hawaii.

He said it would be selfish for his fellow Ilocanos to insist on having Marcos' body in Batac just because he attracts tourists and provides economic activity in the area.

"That is more a desecration of the dead. The dead should be honored not as a tourist attraction but a sacred body," he said.

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Per DTI NCR-Permit No.1704 Series of 2005

GMA reaches out to business groups

From page A1

to try to reach a consensus on giving priority to the economy, the source said.

Teves did not return the INQUIRER's calls.

The source said that by assuring investors that the new economic team would stay the course and that it was determined to hit concrete goals set by all key business sector representatives, it would boost confidence in the country and boost the economy.

Top 3 goals

The economic managers are betting that once economic growth starts to trickle down to the masses, Ms Arroyo's approval rating—which had plummeted to all-time lows in recent surveys—would improve and criticisms against her administration would lose their edge.

The top three goals set by the administration for the next six months are the implementation of the expanded value-added tax (VAT), the opening of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 3, and the expansion of the South Luzon Expressway.

These items are expected to send a strong and clear message to investors that the Philippines intended to make sure that the economy would stay on course, said the source.

Clashing business interests

Aside from near-term targets, the source said the Arroyo economic managers and the private business groups were finalizing the economic goals for the next two to three years. These include promoting investments in tourism, services and agriculture.

NYC SAYS OUST GLORIA!!
NYC 4 GLORIA's Ouster
GLORIA RESIGN OR BE OUSTED

CAUSE-ORIENTED groups stage a protest rally demanding the ouster of President Arroyo in front of the Philippine Consulate in the Diamond District in New York.

EDWIN BACASMAS

The source said Ms Arroyo was satisfied with the way her economic management team had moved forward in striking a truce among clashing business interests.

This has made up somewhat for the difficulties Ms Arroyo is facing in reaching a similar settlement with the political opposition, according to the source.

Protests downplayed

Ms Arroyo's critics have promised to welcome her with protests on her arrival here. Roughly a dozen protesters marched in front of the Philippine consulate on Tuesday.

Philippine Permanent Representative to the United Nations Lauro Baja downplayed the impact of the political noise at home and in New York on Ms Arroyo's visit.

"It [the controversy] does not affect her chairing of the UN Security Council or her attendance in other summits," Baja said in a press conference.

"The UN is insulated from domestic or internal developments in each country. What they look look for is the authority of the duly elected authority of the country."

A good passport

Baja said Ms Arroyo's visit to the United Nations would bring the country good long-term benefits.

"We create a good political and diplomatic image for the Philippines, which is very important in achieving success [for] industries, [and in] other fields in the Philippines, like economics, social and humanitarian [areas]," he said.

"If you have a good political and diplomatic image, it is a good passport to other initiatives."

5 topics

Baja said Ms Arroyo's speech would center on five topics—terrorism, the spiraling oil prices, debt relief, interfaith dialogue and migration.

Meeting with big business

Aside from her UN engagements, Ms Arroyo is set to meet in a summit with her coleaders in the Association of South East Asian Nations (Asean), hold bilateral talks with leaders of China and Indonesia, and meet with top officials of American blue chip corporations, such as Ford Motor Co. and Dell Corp.

She also plans to meet with some 40 business leaders, mostly based in New York, in the US-Asean Business Council.

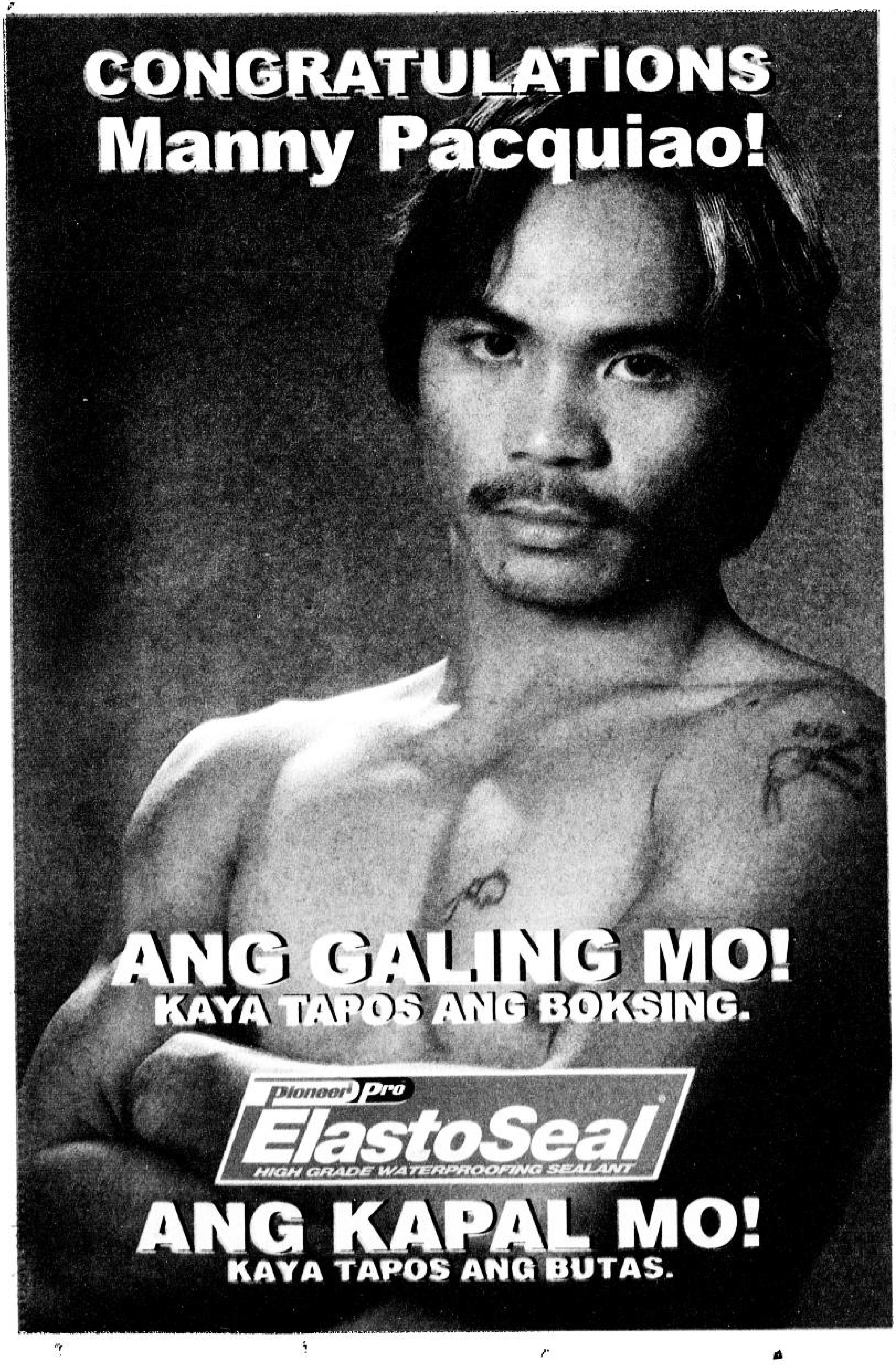
Ms Arroyo is expected to meet with, among others, officials of companies engaged in business process outsourcing and call centers.

$100-M business

Trade Secretary Peter Favila said that Green Mango, a US-based catalogue export service firm, had also asked to meet with Ms Arroyo.

"This company will give us $100-million retail business. It will export our products," he said last weekend.

Ms Arroyo will also attend the Investors' Forum, where she will have a chance to meet with fund managers and market analysts, Favila said. *With a report from Christine O. Avendaño*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Health experts warn of AIDS explosion in RP

FOR CARLOS, WORKING IN A Saudi Arabian hypermarket was his chance to escape a life of poverty in the Philippines.

But while working there, one simple act ruined his life.

Several years after having unprotected sex with a female coworker, Carlos began to suffer chronic fever and a cough.

He waited a year before seeking a medical examination. The results confirmed his worst fears—he was HIV positive.

Carlos is one of about 3,000 Filipinos who have contracted HIV/AIDS working abroad, and health workers say ignorance about disease and poor public education are largely to blame.

"There were so many temptations abroad. But I never thought that they'd put me at risk," Carlos said.

The more than eight million Filipinos working abroad are just one ingredient in a cocktail of risk factors, raising worries about a creeping AIDS problem in the Philippines, a mostly Roman Catholic country.

Low official rates of HIV infection are belying the extent of the problem and breeding complacency, health officials say.

"All the ingredients of an explosion are there," said Dr. Roderick Poblete of the Philippine National AIDS Council.

"What we're experiencing is the ebb tide before the tsunami ... but it's only a matter of time before we feel the tsunami's impact. It will hit the country very, very hard."

Culture of silence

Among the red flags signaling AIDS risks are a thriving commercial sex industry, low condom use, a growing community of injecting drug users, rising rates of sexually transmitted infections and increasing promiscuity.

The Philippines has 2,200 officially reported HIV cases and 676 AIDS cases, but the Department of Health and the World Health Organization estimate that 10,000 Filipinos were HIV positive by 2003, which translates into more than 7,000 unreported cases.

"We're definitely not getting the right figures. Our surveillance system needs to be perfected," said Dr. Dominic Garcia of the AIDS Society of the Philippines.

"There are a lot of Filipinos who are HIV positive but don't know it. Some haven't even heard of the disease."

A conservative culture that is still strongly influenced by the Catholic Church is thought to deter thousands of sufferers from undergoing testing and reporting themselves HIV positive.

Having quit his job and returned to Manila to seek care, Carlos, 49, now conceals his illness from his family in the countryside for fear of discrimination.

"I was scared my neighbors might rally against me and throw me out," he said.

Changing attitudes

Perhaps the biggest risk factor is the low rate of condom use, which stands at just 30 percent among men aged 14-45, according to UNAIDS, the UN agency focused on combating AIDS.

Condoms have long been a flash point for controversy in the Philippines, where the Church remains vehemently opposed to their use and only condones natural family planning methods.

The government remains faithful to the Vatican's AIDS policy, restricting free condom distribution. Critics say that policy is effectively courting an AIDS epidemic.

Condoms cost nearly P20 ($0.36) each at local drugstores, a considerable deterrent for the poor.

In a news conference in February, UNAIDS' executive director Peter Piot criticized the Church's stance in strong terms.

"Church leaders should not make statements that will kill people," Piot said.

Filipino macho culture may also have a role in low condom usage, experts say. Cultural inequity leaves women with weak bargaining power when negotiating the conditions of sex.

"A condom is an exclusively man-controlled item, and unless the woman persuades the man to use it, he doesn't," said the AIDS Society's Garcia.

The future of AIDS is also linked closely to the changing attitudes and behavior of Filipino youth, officials say.

A culture of monogamy might have been one factor behind the relatively low infection rate in the past, but there are signs that is changing.

A survey conducted by the University of the Philippines in 2002 showed 38 percent of young men and 22 percent of young women condone pre-marital sex, up sharply from 14 and 9 percent respectively in a similar survey in 1994.

Filipino youth have an attitude of invulnerability toward the disease, said Garcia. *Reuters*

GMA tells De Castro: You're in charge, OK?

By Nikko Dizon

HER PARTING WORDS TO HER VICE PRESIDENT were: *"Ikaw na bahala, ha* (You're in charge, okay)?"

That was what President Macapagal-Arroyo was overheard telling Noli de Castro as they shook hands before she left on Monday night for New York where she would preside over a UN Security Council meeting.

How does De Castro define his role as the man in charge?

"When you're a caretaker, you don't claim the house. You just take care of it," he told reporters in Filipino.

Asked if Ms Arroyo had special directives for him, De Castro said that she left the usual instructions she gave whenever she went overseas.

"Her instructions to me and the ES (Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita) were that we help each other while she's away ... We always meet together with some members of the Cabinet," De Castro said.

Victorious in her impeachment battle in the House of Representatives, Ms Arroyo was beaming when she walked down the red carpet to board a Philippine Airlines commercial flight to San Francisco.

Ermita said that he had not heard of any reports from intelligence agencies that anti-administration "happenings" were brewing in Ms Arroyo's absence.

The President is expected to return on Saturday morning.

Most of the passengers on PAL flight PR 104 had their cameras ready when they learned who their co-passenger would be.

SWS survey ...

From page A1

third-quarter survey—the same study which found half of respondents favoring "people power" should Congress abort the impeachment cases against President Macapagal-Arroyo—shows 74 percent, or almost three-fourths, of 1,200 respondents consider Vice President De Castro capable of running the country in case Ms Arroyo resigns or is removed from office.

The figure includes both those who think De Castro is "definitely capable" (26 percent), and those who consider him "somewhat capable" (48 percent), an SWS media release said yesterday.

Twenty-three percent of those polled in face-to-face interviews from Aug. 26 to Sept. 5 said he was not capable, it said.

The rest said they did not know or refused to answer the question, according to SWS.

Caretaker

De Castro has been government caretaker since Monday night when Ms Arroyo left for New York where she is to preside over a United Nations Security Council meeting.

The Vice President's capable/not capable scores went up the farther one went from the capital: 59-39 in Metro Manila, 68-27 in the rest of Luzon, 83-14 in the Visayas, and 85-14 in Mindanao.

Members of Class E, the poorest sector and the former ABS-CBN broadcaster's traditional support base, seem to have the most faith in their "Kabayan"—80 percent viewed him as capable, with only 16 percent dissenting.

Classes ABC and D gave him similar capable-not capable scores of 72-27 and 72-25, respectively.

De Castro's net satisfaction rating stood at +39 (60 percent satisfied against 22 percent dissatisfied), up from +22 (52 percent satisfied vs 30 percent dissatisfied) in the second quarter survey in May.

Contrast

In contrast, Ms Arroyo received a net satisfaction rating of -23, with 30 percent satisfied and 53 percent dissatisfied with her performance.

This was an increase from her previous rating of -33 (26 percent satisfied vs 59 percent dissatisfied)—which, according to an SWS Sept. 10 news release, was "the record low for all presidents beginning with Corazon Aquino."

Ms Arroyo's rating in the Visayas, where she customarily draws her strongest support, climbed to net zero, from net -15 in May.

Everywhere else, Ms Arroyo's net rating was in the red: -44 in Metro Manila, up three points from her previous rating; -25 in the rest of Luzon, an increase of 22 points; and -26 in Mindanao, a decrease of 14 points.

Classes ABC, D and E rated her at net -13, net -23 and -31, respectively.

Ratings rise

Net satisfaction ratings increased for three other key officials: Senate President Franklin Drilon, from net +8 to net +22; Speaker Jose de Venecia, from net -2 to net 0; and Supreme Court Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr.—himself a survivor of an impeachment attempt in 2003—from net +1 to net +13.

SWS said it took random samples of 300 adults each in Metro Manila, the rest of Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao. Sampling error margins were at plus or minus 3-percentage points for national percentages, and plus or minus 6-percentage points for area percentages.

Interviews outside Metro Manila were completed during Aug. 26-31. In the capital region, 259 interviews were done over Aug. 26-31 and the remaining 41 interviews over Sept. 1-5.

SWS said the items in its latest news release were not commissioned but included on the firm's own initiative. It would field its fourth-quarter survey in November. *—Jamie Alarcon, PDI Research*

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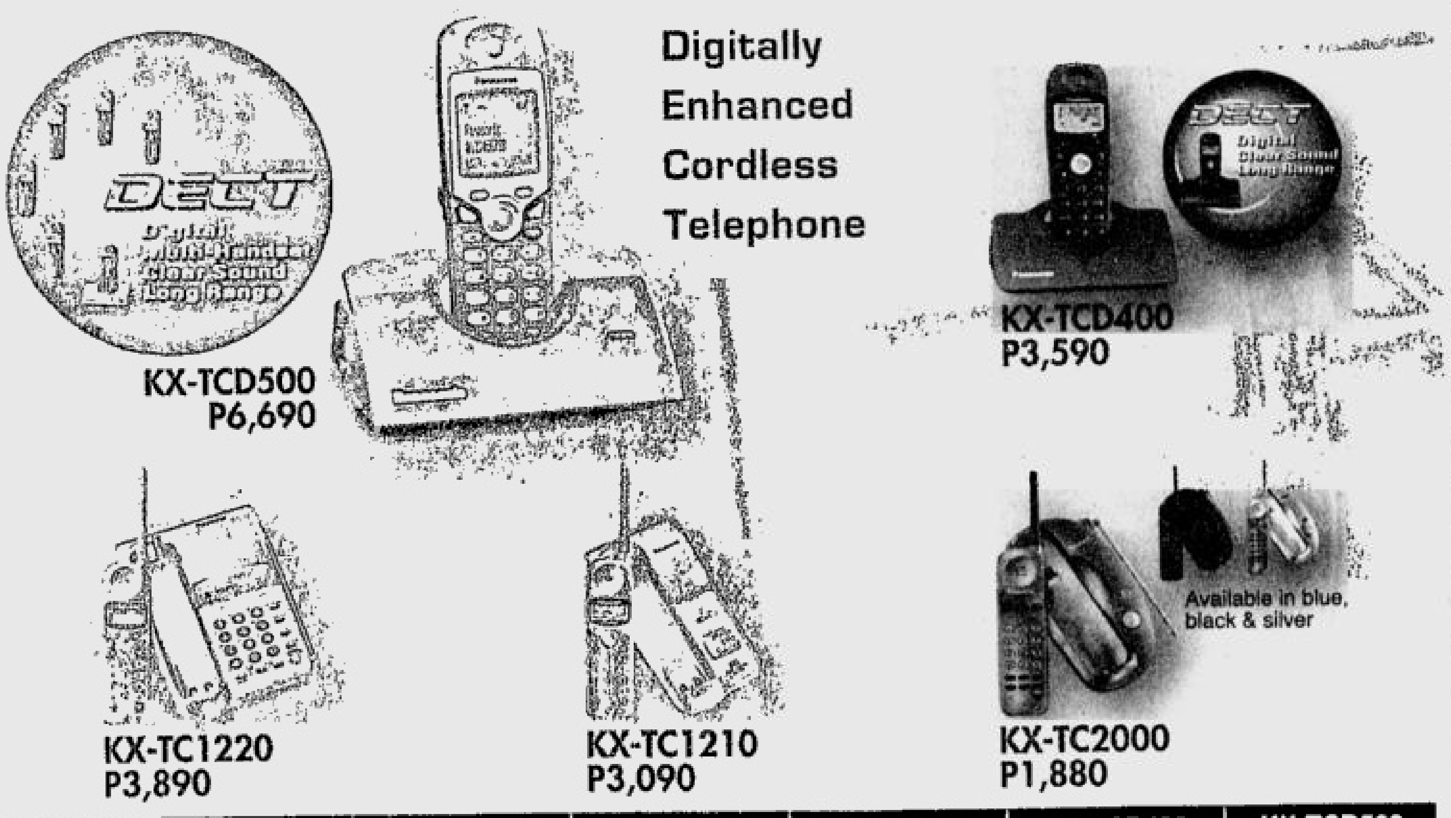

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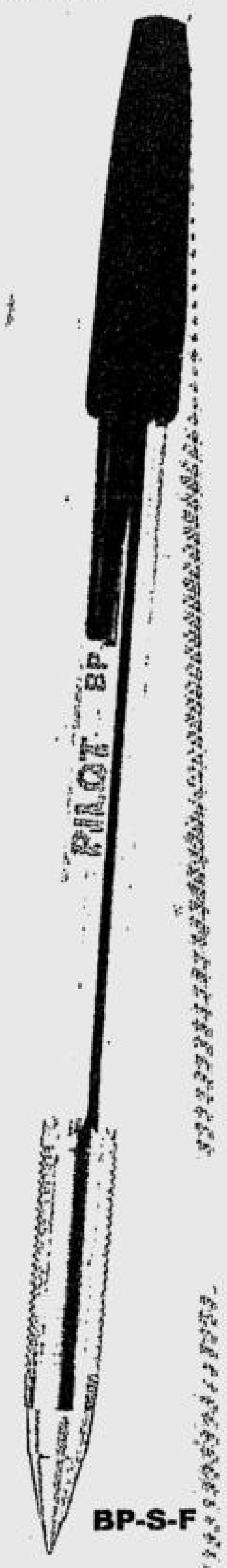

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FBI arrests Lacson aide for espionage

From page A1

meeting in New York on terrorism and other issues.

The Philippines does not have an extradition request for Aquino, said Michael Drewniak, a spokesperson for the US attorney's office.

Aragoncillo, 46, a Filipino national who is a naturalized US citizen, and Aquino, 39, a senior superintendent of the disbanded Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force (PAOCTF), were ordered held without bail following an appearance before US Magistrate Patty Shwartz.

The PAOCTF was once headed by Lacson before he became a senator.

The defendants face a charge of conspiracy and a charge of acting as unregistered foreign agents. The latter carries a sentence of up to 10 years and a $250,000 fine.

Specifics about the classified information passed on by Aragoncillo to Aquino were not revealed in the complaint which, however, gave some clues as to the nature of the pair's efforts.

Change in leadership

In an e-mail that Aquino sent Jan. 2 to an unnamed "high-level" public official, he said that Aragoncillo "wants to talk to you and give you some updates on the political situation in the country."

"He claimed that a change in leadership is boiling and that it is just a matter of time," Aquino wrote, according to the complaint.

US Attorney Christopher J. Christie said there was no evidence that the administration of President Macapagal-Arroyo was involved, but declined to say if the suspects were in contact with opposition factions in the Philippines.

The Philippines has been beset by persistent coup rumors since Ms Arroyo was accused of rigging last year's elections.

Consul's report

In a report to the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA), Philippine Consul General Cecilia Rebong gave details of the charges against Aquino, which she said were the following:

- Acting as an agent of a foreign official without notification of the Attorney General in violation of Title 18 of the US Code, Section 951.
- Knowingly communicating classified information by a government employee to an agent or representative of a foreign country (i.e. receiving classified information).
- Conspiracy to commit all of the above offenses in violation of Title 18 of the US Code Section 371.

Officials No. 1 and 2

The charge sheet stated that Aquino "transmitted classified information to a former national level public official (unnamed public official No. 1) and to present national level public officials (unnamed public officials No. 1 and 2)," Rebong said.

At a briefing, DFA spokesperson Gilberto Asuque maintained that Rebong's report on the nature of the charges "contained no names or identification of nationalities" of the three alleged recipients of information that Aquino illegally obtained from the FBI analyst.

"In the following days we might be able to know who are behind the activities of Michael Ray Aquino," Reynaldo Wycoco, National Bureau of Investigation chief, told ABS-CBN.

FBI seeking NBI help

Wycoco said the names of the officials, including a second high-level official, would be revealed upon indictment.

He said FBI officials had asked the NBI for help in the case against Aquino.

He said the FBI wanted to know who supplied Aquino with money and who was the intended recipient of the classified documents.

The FBI also wanted the NBI to help check Aquino's telephone and bank records, according to Wycoco.

Aquino, who fled to the United States after being indicted in Manila, apparently tried to buy the material from the FBI analyst, the NBI chief said.

101 classified documents

Wycoco said Aquino was arrested in his house in Queens, New York, and Aragoncillo at his home in Woodbury, New Jersey.

Aragoncillo, a US Marine for 21 years, was hired to work at Fort Monmouth in July 2004 and began sending classified information and documents in January, according to the FBI complaint.

Investigators found that from May to Aug. 15, Aragoncillo printed or downloaded 101 classified documents relating to the Philippines, of which 37 were classified "secret," the complaint said.

The probe by US immigration authorities began after Aquino was arrested on March 7 in New York, accused of overstaying the tourist visa with which he entered the United States in July 2001. He had been free on bail.

The DFA had cancelled Aquino's travel papers, making him an undocumented alien in the United States.

8-week surveillance

The NBI submitted to the US Department of Homeland Security in April documents linking Aquino to the abduction and murder of Dacer and his driver Emmanuel Corbito.

Aragoncillo met with immigration officials to inquire about the arrest of Aquino, which prompted a review of his work at Fort Monmouth, an Army base on the central New Jersey coast, the complaint said.

Federal prosecutors and the FBI used phone taps and surveillance, and monitored computers and e-mail accounts as part of the eight-week investigation.

After his arrest, Aragoncillo "essentially admitted that he took classified information," said Assistant US Attorney Karl H. Buch.

Debts amounting to $500,000

Christie would not say what motivated the suspects. Buch said that Aragoncillo had $500,000 in debts, mostly mortgages on rental properties, and that Aquino had been investigated in the Philippines in connection with a conspiracy to murder two people.

The FBI suspended Aragoncillo on Monday. Leslie Wiser Jr., the special agent in charge of the FBI's New Jersey operations, said it was "disheartening" that one of the agency's workers faced such charges.

Aragoncillo retired honorably as a gunnery sergeant in September 2004 after 21 years in the US Marine Corps. Wearing blue jeans and a T-shirt, with closely cropped hair, he stood nearly at attention during his brief court appearance.

In her report, Rebong said Aquino's first court appearance on Sept. 12 was not an arraignment since he was not yet required to enter a plea.

The judge, she said, just read Aquino's rights and asked him if he had a lawyer to represent him or would like to be provided one.

When Aquino replied that he did not have a lawyer for the case, the judge said he would be given a criminal justice attorney.

Aquino, however, has hired an immigration lawyer, Felix Vinluan, who confirmed the arrest of his client to the Philippine Consulate, Rebong said.

Rebong said she had to call up the US Department of Justice to inquire why the consulate was "not immediately informed" of the arrest.

Quoting Buch, the consul general said it was "because of the covert and sensitive nature of the case (that) no consular notification has as yet been made."

Rebong said Aquino was detained at the Passaic County Correctional. His second hearing is scheduled for Sept. 21.

The US Embassy here declined to comment on the case.

"This is a criminal case being investigated by the authorities in the United States. We don't have a comment to make," embassy spokesperson Ruth Urry said.

Destabilization plot?

Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez has written the US government, through its embassy in Manila, to provide the Department of Justice with an "update and a more complete information" on the information that Aquino had obtained from an FBI analyst.

In a letter to Jeff Cole of the US Embassy, Gonzalez said the information could be "detrimental to our government."

"Should local personalities and politicians in the Philippines be mentioned, we request that we be furnished with the names," he said.

He also asked that the government be furnished with a "summary of the documents downloaded by (Aguino) so that the government can take the necessary action under the circumstances."

Gonzalez told reporters that the activities of Aquino could be linked with the "current destabilization moves in the country."

The arrest of Aquino is a breakthrough because it would "unmask ... people manipulating these things by trying to gather dirt from outside," the justice secretary said.

"It is very obvious that (Aquino) would not be gathering documents like these or whatever documents they feel would be derogatory against the government ... if if would not be used for political ends," Gonzalez said.

Aquino is one of the leaders of the Be not Afraid Movement in the United States, which has planned to undertake protest actions against Ms Arroyo while she was in New York or Washington D.C., according to be_not_afraid@mailshack.com, the website of the movement.

Ms Arroyo is in the United States to address the UN Security Council. *(Story on Page A1.) Reports from AFP and AP*

Aquino faces string of cases—from murder to rebellion

MICHAEL RAY BEGUAS Aquino, a graduate of the Philippine Military Academy, joined the police force in 1984 and became senior inspector in 1988. He was promoted police senior superintendent in 1998.

Aquino was known to be a close associate of Sen. Panfilo Lacson when the latter was director general of the Philippine National Police.

Lacson, Aquino and 32 others were charged with the murder of 11 members of the Kuratong Baleleng gang in 1995.

In 2003, Quezon City Regional Trial Court Judge Maria Theresa Yadao dismissed the case.

Aquino and former police superintendent Cesar Mancao were implicated by Supt. Glenn Dumlao in the November 2000 abduction and murder of publicist Salvador "Bubby" Dacer and his driver Emmanuel Corbito.

'Strategic planners'

Aquino and Mancao were reported to be the "strategic planners" of the operation. Dumlao, who was a member of the defunct Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force then headed by Lacson, also tagged other PAOCTF members. But the Court of Appeals rejected Dumlao's allegations against Aquino and Mancao.

In May 2001, then Justice Secretary Hernando Perez issued hold departure orders against the two for their alleged participation in the Labor Day siege of Malacañang, for which they were also charged with rebellion.

However, they managed to escape the country in July 2001. They were said to have flown to Hong Kong using fake passports, and later to the United States on genuine travel documents. The National Bureau of Investigation could not arrest or extradite Aquino because it had no warrant, following the Court of Appeals' rejection of Dumlao's allegations.

Rosebud's charges

Aquino, Mancao, Lacson and other police officers were also charged before the Office of the Ombudsman with drug trafficking, murder, kidnapping, serious illegal detention and wiretapping. The accuser was Mary "Rosebud" Ong, a former anti-narcotics agent and ex-PAOCTF informant.

On March 7, Aquino was arrested by the US Immigration and Customs Enforcement in New York while trying to get a work permit. The Philippine Department of Foreign Affairs earlier canceled Aquino and Macao's travel papers, making them undocumented aliens in the United States.

The NBI submitted in April to the US Department of Homeland Security documents linking Aquino to the Dacer-Corbito slay. These would reportedly become part of the removal proceedings against Aquino. *Cyril L. Bonabente and Jamie Alarcon, PDI Research*

IN THE KNOW

ESPIONAGE IS THE ACT OF spying or getting secrets from rivals for military, political or economic advantage.

The United States' Espionage Act of 1917 prohibits getting, copying, passing or receiving classified information concerning its national defense, if it can injure the United States or benefit a foreign country.

Classified information is defined as data designated by the United States for restricted distribution because of national security. A security clearance is needed to access classified information.

Under the Act, punishment for espionage in times of peace was imprisonment of not more than 20 years. Death or imprisonment of not more than 30 years was applicable only if espionage was committed during war.

Starting 1954, the punishment for peacetime espionage ranges from imprisonment of less than 10 years to death, depending on the existence of aggravating factors including grave risk to national security and prior espionage and treason.

A person, who willfully or through negligence allows espionage to be committed, shall pay a fine not more than $10,000 or shall be imprisoned for not more than two years, or both. *Cyril L. Bonabente, PDI Research*

Lacson expects government to link him to case

From page A1

"creative imagination," Lacson later said in a statement.

Aquino was arrested Saturday at his home in New York on allegations he was passing classified information, which he had obtained from an analyst of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, to Philippine officials.

FBI analyst Leandro Aragoncillo was also arrested.

Malacañang said it had nothing to do with the arrest of Aquino, but administration congressmen were quick to gang up on Lacson.

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said the US government neither consulted nor sought the cooperation of Manila in its investigation and eventual arrest of Aquino.

Caught by surprise

Ermita told reporters the news of Aquino's arrest caught him by surprise, adding that he only got wind of the arrest from a military officer who sent him a text message yesterday morning.

"We have no prior knowledge," the executive secretary said after a forum at Anabel's restaurant in Quezon City.

Four members of the House of Representatives said the arrest of Aquino showed his links to the opposition's alleged efforts to destabilize the administration.

"Who is this unidentified official? Was it Senator Lacson?" said Antique Rep. Exequiel Javier, a member of the ruling party Lakas-CMD.

"I don't think Mr. Aquino used this to make a scrap book. Definitely, this information was stolen and put to nefarious use," Javier added.

Leyte Rep. Eduardo Veloso said only the opposition would have a keen interest in the information gathered by Aquino.

"(Lacson) should explain the involvement of his (former) top aide in the conspiracy. Why would Aquino be so interested in availing himself of classified information about the government? Certainly someone or a group is behind him," Veloso said.

Extradition

Davao del Sur Rep. Douglas Cagas, for his part, said the Department of Justice should immediately work for the extradition of Aquino, especially because the US Attorney General's office earlier said that it had yet to receive an extradition request from Manila.

"Aquino's illegal activities in the US only goes to show that the opposition is really navigating malevolent and dangerous waters," Cagas said.

Isabela Rep. Edwin Uy said the National Bureau of Investigation should investigate the people who paid Aragoncillo to give Aquino information on developments in the Philippines.

WYCOCO: 3 officials recipients

LACSON: Going in my direction

Info available to everyone

"Certainly, the classified documents were for sale. Who provided the money to Aquino to pay off Aragoncillo? Large sums of money may have been involved for the conspiracy," Uy said.

Asked if the information coming from Aquino was classified, Lacson said: "It depends on how you appreciate the information. It may be classified information to some, but when I read the info, say on impeachment, it was info available to everyone."

The e-mails were sent to the common websites of "cavaliers," or graduates of the Philippine Military Academy—acf.com (academy cavaliers' forum) and pnc.com (plebes and cavaliers), he said.

Aquino had been regularly sending e-mails to his associates and friends in Manila since he left for the United States in July 2001. He also contributed articles to the PMA website, accessed by most of his cavaliers, the senator said.

Lacson, a former Philippine National Police chief, said he could not remember receiving classified FBI information from Aquino.

"But one thing I am very certain about—I don't recall having received any information sensitive to the US government. Neither would the information gathered by Ninoy Aquino be worth an American penny," he said in the statement, referring to Aquino by his nickname.

The last time the senator received an e-mail from Aquino was last week. Like the previous ones, it was an article about the current political situation, according to him.

No spying

Lacson laughed off insinuations that he could be one of those current officials referred to in the reports as beneficiaries of the classified information.

"There is no spying against the US government. Absolutely, we will never do any spying on the US," he said in a phone interview.

The senator also expressed doubts that Aquino, his subordinate in the disbanded Philippines Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force, would get involved in espionage in the United States.

"I don't believe so. He will not gain anything from it," he said, noting that at present, Aquino was also facing charges for overstaying and was free on bail.

"I am saddened by the reported arrest of Michael Ray Aquino ostensibly for receiving information from a US government employee," he said.

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Terror act ruled out in armory blast

By Jocelyn R. Uy

LIGHTNING PROBABLY DID it.

That was how the police explained the massive explosion that leveled a storage facility and heavily damaged another at the ammunition dump of the National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO) inside Camp Bagong Diwa in Taguig City Monday night.

The explosion at ammunition dump of the NCRPO's Logistics Support Services (LSS) injured at least 107 persons, who included six policemen and 101 interness at a nearby drug rehabilitation center.

"We have ruled out any act of sabotage or terrorism. It was not an act of terror but a plain and simple accident," said NCRPO chief Director Vidal Querol in a press conference.

Police said the storage facilities, which kept various types of explosives, blew up at 11:15 p.m. amid a thunderstorm.

Buildings damaged

Blast waves blew away walls and caused the collapse of ceilings in surrounding buildings, including the camp's administrative building, gasoline station and the Center for Ultimate Rehabilitation of Drug Dependents or CUREDD.

A two-square meter concrete slab from the ammunition dump was blown away and fell on the Regional Special Action (RSAU) Force building some 150 meters away.

The slab tore through a portion of the roof of the RSAU building and injured at least six policemen.

Querol said a task force had been formed to investigate the blast, which he added could have been due to lightning or a chemical reaction in the explosives.

The NCRPO chief showed reporters a scorched lighting arrester, which he said was installed at the ammunition dump.

Proof

Sr. Supt. Asher Dolina, chief of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group-NCR, said "It's possible that with the destroyed lightning arrester, electrical current sparked (a fire) and caused the explosion."

A lightning arrester is a long metal rod usually mounted on the roof to absorb a lightning bolt and carry electricity to the ground.

Chief Supt. Arturo Cacdac, head of the PNP Firearms and Explosive Division, said electrostatic energy or electricity from lightning can trigger an explosion."

Querol dismissed the possibility that the blast was deliberately set off since the ammunition dump was under heavy guard 24 hours a day.

Controlled area

"This is a very controlled area," Querol said, adding that no one would have particular interest on the explosives there since these were already for disposal.

Some 10 guards are assigned to look after the storage facility, LSS chief Supt. Ameto Tolentino told the INQUIRER yesterday.

However, the INQUIRER learned that only about four guards were on duty at the time of the incident.

The guards were also posted behind the administration building. (*See illustration*)

Each of the two facilities, which had been used as ammunition bunkers since 1978, measured 40 square meters, about 3 or 4 meters high and 1 or 2 meters apart.

Half buried

The facilities were half "buried" into the ground to cushion the impact of accidental explosions.

Improvised explosive devices, molotov bombs, C4, sacks of ammonium nitrate, claymore mines were among the explosives in the ammunition dump.

Some of the explosives have either been permanently disposed in Crow Valley in Tarlac or used in practical exercises of the Explosive Ordinance Division, added Tolentino.

The CUREDD, which was just across the street from the ammunition storage facilities, sustained the heaviest damage.

Its walls facing the blast site were blown away, injuring 101 internees.

Of the 2,500 drug patients at the center, 400 escaped at the height of the incident.

24 unaccounted

CUREDD chief Supt. Bonafart Francisco said of the 400, who fled the center to "save their lives," only 24 remained unaccounted for.

This is the second "accident" involving an arms or explosives depot of the Philippine National Police.

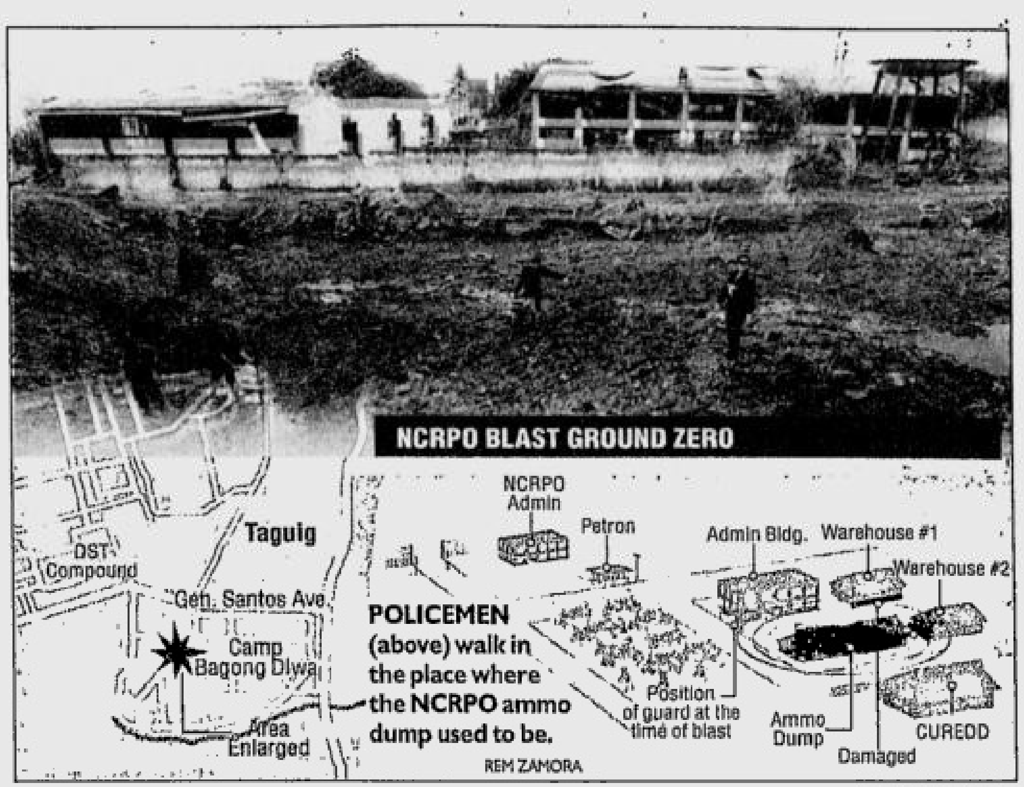
In February 2004, a fire, supposedly caused by an electric spark, reduced to ashes a building that contained hundreds of bombs and thousands of bullets inside Camp Crame.

Noting that the NCRPO blast was the second accident of its kind in two years, Bataoil said the police would look into measures to undertake in preventing similar incidents.

"The (police) leadership also wants to see the liability of persons who are supposed to handle these... delicate materials," he said.

Bataoil said they would wait for the recommendation of experts on how to avoid a similar accident.

With Luige del Puerto



POLICEMEN (above) walk in the place where the NCRPO ammo dump used to be. REM ZAMORA

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Junk shops warned

THE MANILA government yesterday warned junk shop owners in the city against buying and selling manhole and drainage covers. Deputy Mayor Don Bagatsing said junk shops found buying or selling road paraphernalia will be shut down. Residents have been complaining of open manholes, whose covers had been stolen. During the rainy season when some streets get flooded, pedestrians, especially schoolchildren, run the risk of falling into open manholes. *Tina G. Santos*

Curfew for Navotas kids

ALARMED by recent crimes involving minors, the government of Navotas yesterday announced that curfew hours for unaccompanied youth would be strictly implemented. In the past two weeks, separate crime incidents led to the death of a 10-year-old boy and the wounding a 5-year-old girl. Both incidents happened at night. Mayor Toby Tiangco said making sure children were home when night falls would lessen their exposure to criminals. A 10 p.m. to 4 a.m. curfew for minors has been in effect since 2002. *Nancy C. Carvajal*

UP Eco homecoming

ALUMNI of the UP School of Economics are invited to the 2005 "Balik UPSE Tayo" homecoming, on Sept. 17, 2005, at the second floor Library Building of the UP School of Economics, Diliman, Quezon City. Registration starts at 4 p.m. "Balik UPSE Tayo," which marks the 40th anniversary of the department, will be hosted by AB/BS undergraduate batches of '79 and '80 with the AB/BS, MA, and PhD classes of 1980. For more information, contact Rose San Pascual of the UPSE Public Affairs Office, at 9205481 or Ronee Villanueva-Juanengo at 8302093 or mobile 0917 8970818.

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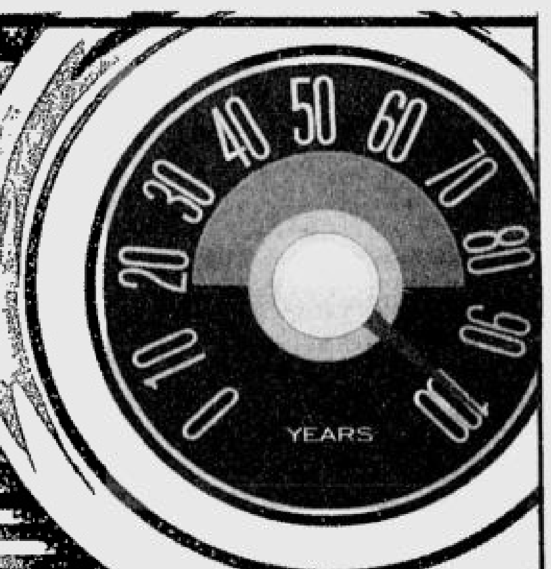

DATE	EVENTS	VENUE	ORGANIZED HOST
Thur. (Sept. 15)			
A.M. 10.00 - 12.00 NN	Open to the Public	The Forum, PICC	Motorshow Int'l. Manila, Inc.
	Start of People's Choice Contest (Balloting)		Motorshow Int'l. Manila, Inc
Thur. – Sun. (Sept. 15 – 18)			
A.M. 10.00 – 8.00 P.M	Motorshow In Scale	Hall 3	Motorshow Int'l. Manila, Inc.
Sat. (Sept. 17)			
A.M. 9.00 – 4.00 P.M.	Suzuki One Make Race	Kart Trek, Boom na Boom Grounds, CCP Complex	Suzuki Phils., Inc.
10.00 – 6:00 P.M.	Motorshow Jeep Jamboree (Jeeps & Hummers on Parade – Vintage to Present)	Road for Parking, The Forum Open Grounds	Motorshow Int'l Manila, Inc with Phil Jeep Preservation Association (PJPA) Rommel T. Juan
10:00 – 4:00 P.M.	SEARCH for "Babe Magnet" Car of the Year	Halls 1, 2,3 – The Forum	AXE (Unilever)
P.M. 5.00	Presentation of Thermojet Fuel-Saving Device	Stage Area	ThermoEnergy Corporation
Sun. (Sept. 18)			
A.M. 8.00 – 5.00 P.M.	MMDA Chairman's Cup Car Clubs Gymkhana	Red Parking, PICC	Motorshow Int'l. Manila, Inc. & Petron Corporation
	Motorshow Car Clubs Meet (Vintage Car Clubs of the Phils., Volkswagen Club of the Phils., Everyday Holiday Club, Muscle Car Club, Mini Car Club, British Roadster Club, Club Mitsu, Ford Rally Sport Registry, Mercedez Benz Club, Miata Club)	Road for Parking, The Forum Open Grounds	Motorshow Int'l. Manila, Inc. & Petron Corporation
P.M. 4.00	Magtanong kay Chairman (Open Forum with MMDA Chairman Bayani Fernando)	Stage Area	MMDA
6.00	Awarding and Closing Ceremonies	The Forum, PICC	Motorshow Int'l. Manila, Inc.

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BF gates open once more

By Jocelyn R. Uy

THE PARAÑAQUE CITY government has officially gained control over the main gates of the BF Homes subdivision yesterday morning after a Muntinlupa court ruled in their favor.

Judge Alberto Lerma, of the the Muntinlupa Regional Trial Court (Branch 256), said the local government could now open the main gates at El Grande and Aguirre Avenues after he cancelled a writ of preliminary injunction he had issued earlier.

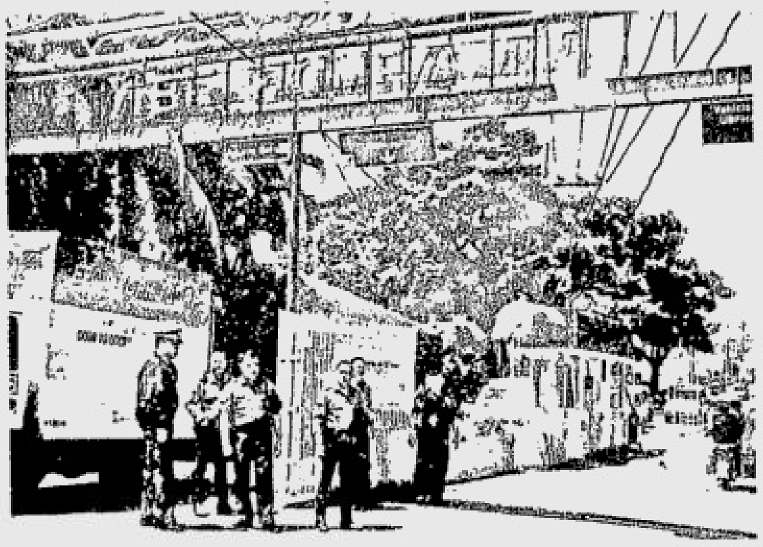
The United BF Homeowners Association Inc. (UBFHAI) had filed on Aug. 12 a motion for reconsideration, saying the court had erred in granting Parañaque City's own motion for reconsideration as this "had not raised any new issues."

The UBFHAI also alleged that the court made a lapse when it granted the local government's motion for reconsideration on the ground of "pendency" of a case that dealt on Ordinance No. 97-08, which reclassified both Aguirre and El Grande Avenues as commercial roads, adding it was distinct from Ordinance No. 00-15 opening both roads to the public. Meanwhile, the Parañaque City government maintained that Ordinance No. 00-15 was a valid exercise of their police power as fully explained by the higher court in its decision in Ordinance No. 97-08.

The local government, however, assured BF Homes residents that the subdivision would be tightly guarded by police and trained barangay watchmen.

"There will be increased police visibility in the subdivision especially at night," said Nelson Lacambra, spokesperson of Mayor Florencio Bernabe. Association stickers would still be useful, he added. The gates would be open to the public from 5 a.m. until 10 p.m.

The local government said it expected UBFHAI to bring its case to the Court of Appeals.


ROEL ROTONI

POLICEMEN guard one of BF Homes' gates in Parañaque City after it was reopened to outsiders.

Fires hit Pasig, San Juan 'classroom'

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

WHAT BEGAN AS A SIMPLE TUTORIAL session ended in a hair-raising experience for more than 20 kindergarten pupils in San Juan the other day when their temporary classroom went up in flames.

The fire started at a stockroom on the ground floor of a two-story house at the corner of Santos and Parada Streets in Barangay Sta. Lucia, San Juan.

The room was adjacent to a garage where pupils from a Chinese school were undergoing a follow-up learning program.

Busy with their lessons, the pupils were surprised to see smoke coming out of the closed stockroom. The school had rented the garage which was just across the building.

Investigators said the outlet, where an electric fan had been plugged, could have overheated, triggering the fire. Teachers were able to lead their pupils out of the burning house owned by Lydia Tee.

Tee was not able to save any of her belongings. Police estimated the damage at about P8 million.

Meanwhile, fire hit the top floor of the Pasig City Hall midnight on Monday. Officials later heaved a sigh of relief as the the blaze caused only "negligible damage," according to FO1 Salvador Norberte Jr. of the Pasig City Fire Station.

Only the scaffolding carpenters had built on the top floor was razed. Construction work had been ongoing at the eight-story building.

Watchman Romeo Yson was making his rounds at city hall when he saw fire on the front portion of the eighth floor at about 11:40 p.m. on Monday. He immediately sought help from the city fire station, less than 300 meters away from city hall.

Investigators said the fire could have been triggered by sparks sent off by workers using an acetylene tank to weld iron sheets hours earlier.

MMDA traffic chief, 13 others face sanctions

By Tarra V. Quismundo

THE METROPOLITAN MANILA DEVELOPMENT Authority (MMDA) has ordered the relief of the chief of the MMDA Traffic Enforcement Group (TEG), after a television show exposed illegal activities allegedly conducted right outside his office.

Senior Supt. Philmore Balmaceda said yesterday that MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando directed on Monday the relief of Senior Supt. Cesar Javier, head of TEG's Western District Traffic Enforcement Office (WDTEO), along with 13 of his subordinates.

"Javier had been head of the office for about a year, yet he was never able to act on illegal activities outside the WDTEO headquarters," said Balmaceda, group chief of the TEG.

The TEG is a special traffic enforcement unit of the National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO) tasked to assist the MMDA in traffic management. The ABS-CBN weekly primetime show, Magandang Gabi Bayan had aired earlier a segment on complaints of jeepney drivers against the WDTEO Special Operations Group (SOG). Jeepney drivers claimed that SOG officers had been towing their vehicles illegally, citing violations like plying their routes without documentation, or lacking the necessary franchise.

Also relieved were Senior Supt. Eduardo Desquitado, SPO4 Romulo Tamayo, Rodolfo Cahanding, Lucito Lozano, and Oscar Huliganga, SPO2 Dionisio Sagun, Francisco Ignacio, Manuel Resuello, Arnel Pabines, Cesar Santiago, and Valentino Guevarra, PO3 Ernesto Corporal, and PO2 Ruben Cosme.

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BASEBALL: MLB - Yankees vs Devil Rays; 7 a.m. (r-2:30 p.m. and 9:30 p.m.); ESPN—New York battles Tampa Bay in the AL.

FOOTBALL: UEFA Champions League; tomorrow at 2:30 a.m.; ESPN —Europe's premier teams continue their quest for the ultimate prize.

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Compiled by L. Manguiat

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P'foods battles Red Bull in PBA season opener

By June Navarro

AFTER 17 YEARS, PUREFOODS WILL begin its season without former franchise player Alvin Patrimonio. Red Bull Barako, meanwhile, can't be faulted for looking like the 2002 UAAP champion Ateneo Blue Eagles.

These subplots are sure to make the clash between Purefoods and Red Bull doubly interesting as the 2005-06 Philippine Basketball Association season unfolds at the Araneta Coliseum on Oct. 2.

Hoping to arrest their misfortunes the past four seasons, coach Ryan Gregorio's charges will now carry the name Purefoods Chunkee in their first season of the post-Patrimonio era.

The league's four-time Most Valuable Player retired in the middle of the Philippine Cup last season and now sits as the team manager of the ballclub he powered to five PBA championships.

PATRIMONIO

Months after Patrimonio's departure came the infusion of new blood with rookies Jondan Salvador and BJ Manalo adding youth and dynamism to the lineup.

Purefoods will parade import Marquin Chandler, a 6-foot-6 forward who just finished his collegiate career as San Jose State University's top scorer (19.8 ppg) and rebounder (8.5 rpg) in the 2005 Western Athletic Conference of the US NCAA.

The Barako are still searching for an import after prospects Earl Barron and Victor Thomas hooked up with teams in the NBA. Barron signed a one-year pact with the Miami Heat while Thomas was invited to the Philadephia Sixers camp.

On his third year with the Barako, Enrico Villanueva will reunite with former Ateneo teammates Larry Fonacier and Paolo Bugia, making Red Bull an extension of the victorious Blue Eagles squad in the 2002 UAAP varsity wars. Red Bull signed Fonacier and Bugia to two-year contracts.

Meanwhile, Coca-Cola head coach Binky Favis is expecting the arrival of Alex Carcamo today to reinforce the Tigers in the import-spiced conference next month.

Four more teams make their respective debuts also at the Big Dome three days after the Oct. 2 opening with Barangay Ginebra taking on sister team Coca-Cola in the first game at 4:40 p.m. and Sta. Lucia Realty testing the mettle of powerhouse Alaska in the main match.

Ynares Center in Antipolo City will play host to the much-awaited Talk 'N Text-San Miguel Beer clash on Oct. 7 to be preceded by the Air21-Purefoods curtain-raiser.

Lina taunts POC, invites NBC cagers to RP pool

BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION OF THE Philippines president Joey Lina has invited National Basketball Conference (NBC) players to join the pool for the national team to the Southeast Asian Games once the Fiba ban is lifted.

Lina made the offer to NBC secretary general Tito Palma after lauding the NBC Selection's successful stint in the recent 9th Crown Prince Cup tournament in Thailand.

"On behalf of the BAP, I extend my congratulations to the NBC Selection, which brought honors to the country by bagging the Crown Prince Cup title," said Lina.

The NBC, however, has not responded to the offer. Its president, Nathaniel "Tac" Padilla, said they do not want the "(sports) authorities" to think that the league is "siding with either the BAP or the Philippine Olympic Committee."

The POC general assembly expelled the BAP from Olympic body on June 30, and it has since recognized the Philippine Basketball Federation as the national sports association for basketball.

"We cannot comment on this (offer)," Padilla said.

Composed of players from Laguna Spring, Tribu Sugbu and Mantawi, the NBC Selection swept its opponents from Hong Kong, Singapore, South Korea and Thailand.

Despite the uncertainty of basketball being played in the SEAG, the BAP-backed RP pool under coach Boyzie Zamar continues to practice regularly.

"We are doing everything to have the ban lifted," said Lina, whose organization continues to enjoy the recognition of the Fiba (world basketball federation).

74
days to go before
23rd SEA Games

Equipment, venues ready for Games

By Musong R. Castillo

ON SCHEDULE.

Philippine Southeast Asian Games Organizing Committee (Philsoc) operations chief Richie Garcia yesterday declared that the facelifting of most of the venues and the acquisition of equipment to be used in the 23rd Southeast Asian Games are proceeding according to schedule.

Garcia, a Philippine Sports Commissioner, said renovation works are 85 percent complete while the equipment requested by the National Sports Associations are expected to be all in by the first week of October.

"Everything is going according to schedule," Garcia said. "In fact, we're ahead of schedule."

Garcia, debunking speculations that repair works on venues, especially the Rizal Memorial track and field oval, will not be completed in time for the Nov. 27 to Dec. 5 Games, bared that the rubber surface for the oval will arrive next week.

He added that a new scoreboard, though not as grand as the old one that has adorned the venue for two decades, will be flown in from Malaysia at about the same time.

Only about P100,000 will be spent for the new timing device, a minuscule amount compared to the P13 million estimated for a replacement to the old scoreboard which played a part in the country's SEAG hosting in 1981 and 1991.

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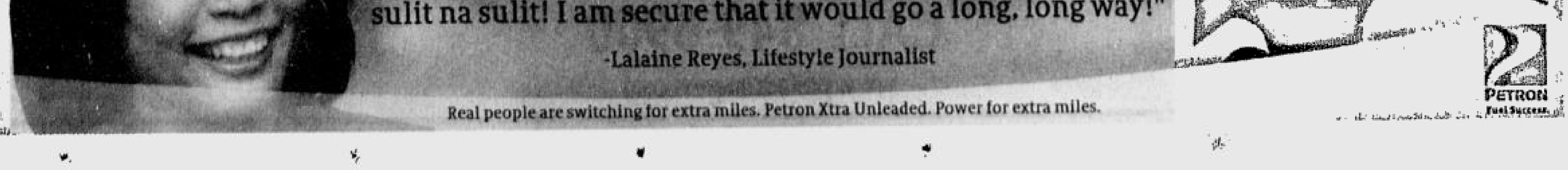
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A stunner in more ways than one

By Musong R. Castillo

HER LONG, BROWN HAIR HELD IN PLACE by a pair of sunglasses on her head and the sleeves of her pink blouse rolled to three-quarter's length, one wouldn't mistake Veronica Domingo to be an athlete of the martial arts kind.

Yes, the 26-year-old stunner is an athlete. And though she calls herself a former volleyball benchwarmer, she is actually a bright gold medal hope in a more bruising sport—taekwondo.

The 5-foot-8 Domingo will be willing her rickety knees to another gold in the Southeast Asian Games this year, probably the final international stop of a career that saw her first languishing in the Far Eastern U volleyball bench.

When a shift to another sport seemed imminent, the choice was pretty much a no-brainer. Domingo had been dabbling in the Korean martial art as a means to improve her footwork for volleyball, where she made the national girls' team in 1997.

And from being her pet cross-training event, taekwondo is now Domingo's forte. In fact, she will be gunning for a third straight SEAG gold. She hopes to win, despite moving up to the welterweight (under-67 kg) class.

But the road to this one will be the roughest, since Domingo is still recovering from anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) injuries to both knees.

"I was able to kick a bag with my right foot on the birthday of Mama Mary (last Sept. 8)," said Domingo, a devout Catholic. "It meant that I can now stand on my left leg with a little more therapy."

Domingo, a mass communications graduate at FEU, tore her right ACL in sparring on May 6 last year, and had surgery the next day.

That injury forced her to use her left leg more, and the torture on it showed after she almost suffered the same injury last July.

Nowadays, Domingo is doing leg-strengthening exercises to save the left knee from being operated on and for her to have a chance at putting on a *dobuk* (taekwondo uniform) in the SEAG anew.

As a volleyball player, Domingo's only international stint in Thailand was limited to warming the bench and winning an accolade that was based on the looks department.

VERONICA Domingo is ready for one more shot at the gold. LYN RILLON

As a taekwondo jin, Domingo has bloomed internationally, carving a name for herself with her skill. She copped the bronze in the 1999 Brunei SEAG before winning the lightweight gold in the next two editions in Kuala Lumpur and Vietnam.

Now that the SEA Games will be held here, with God's help and the entire nation to support her, Domingo hopes to strike again. Then maybe she will no longer be mistaken for just another pretty face.

Jaguars give new mentor Cezar stirring welcome

THE PHILIPPINE School of Business Administration Jaguars gave new coach Philip Cezar a rousing welcome yesterday in the fourth Universities and Colleges Athletic Association (UCAA) men's basketball tournament.

GAMES TOMORROW
(EAC Sports Center)
10 a.m.—EAC vs PSBA
11:30 a.m.—La Salle Dasma vs Olivarez College
1 p.m.—St. Francis vs Acsat

The Jaguars stunned the St. Francis of Assisi Doves, 71-68, for their first win in seven games at the Emilio Aguinaldo College gym.

Cezar, a former PBA MVP with the famed Crispa Redmanizers, replaced Jimmy Mariano at the PSBA bench.

The Doves' fourth loss in eight games dropped them to fourth spot.

Christopher de la Cruz and Patrick Mercado powered the Jaguars with 18 points, with Mercado chipping in eight in the third period.

Last Friday, the Jaguars suffered their sixth straight loss, 71-85, to the National College of Business and Arts Wildcats.

Last Friday, Allaine Musni and Nikko Hubalde starred as the Generals defeated Asian College of Science and Technology, 77-58.

Lacuna badminton registration begins

REGISTRATION FOR THE FIRST DANNY LAcuna-Gran Copa de Manila Badminton Cup 2005 is now open at the office of the vice mayor and in all the city's barangays.

Sixty participants, vying in the men's and women's doubles and mixed doubles, will be allowed for the first district during the elimination round slated Oct. 1 at the Badminton City at the YMCA along Arroceros Street, behind City Hall.

Shuttlers from the second district play next on Oct. 8, while the third district eliminations start on Oct. 22 for the right to earn slots in the city-wide finals.

The November leg will start with the elimination round for the fourth district on Nov. 5, followed by the fifth district competitions on Nov. 12.

The winners from each district will then figure in a championship tourney on Nov. 15.

RACING TIPS

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Race 1—1. Mika's Dream 2. Black Widow 3. Cool Cielo/Twiggy's Charm 4. Tiramisu
Race 2—1. Nureyev Heiress 2. Queen Josephine 3. Western Dancer 4. Terminator
Race 3—1. Wind Runner 2. Ebony Dane
Race 4—1. Dazzling Affair 2. Quant Je Puis 3. El Love Señora 4. Candon's Pride 5. Coat of Arms
Race 5—1. Prickly Heat 2. Bullish Dream 3. Loaded 4. Bashful Lady
Race 6—1. Striker/Better Strike 2. Superwoman 3. Sweet Felicity 4. Run Like D Wind
Race 7—1. Pechanga 2. At All Cost 3. Hello Junior 4. Pyramid Relaunch
Race 8—1. Tribeca 2. Beat D Heat 3. Jaw Breaker 4. Power Dance 5. Extreme Connection 6. Sovereign Dancer

RP taekwondo jins target overall title

ROBERTO Cruz (right) spearheaded the 1991 taekwondo squad. He is part of the coaching staff this time. PDI PHOTO

A PHILIPPINE 16-GOLD MEDAL SWEEP IN TAEKWONDO in the 23rd Southeast Asian Games may be improbable. Half of it, though, is achievable.

"We're always optimistic that we have a chance to complete a sweep of all the 16 gold medals at stake," said RP taekwondo team coach Stephen Fernandez, aware of the vow made by Philippine Taekwondo Association president Robert Aventajado that the Filipino jins can pull off a 16-gold medal romp in the Nov. 27 to Dec. 5 biennial meet.

"The record to beat, though, in taekwondo is eight gold medals," bared Fernandez.

The Filipinos won that many during the 1991 Manila SEA Games when Roberto Cruz led the RP jins to the overall title of the competition. Fernandez believes an eight-gold harvest this time is not hard to achieve.

"Taekwondo is a contact sport, so we don't know what will happen during the bouts," said the 1992 Barcelona Olympics bronze medalist.

Fernandez guested in yesterday's PSA Forum together with Cruz, now a member of the RP coaching staff, and Veronica Domingo.

The 26-year-old Domingo is back with the national team after suffering a foot injury. Previously a lightweight, she will be fighting as a welterweight this time.

Others in the women's RP squad are Sally Solis (heavyweight), Criselda Roxas (middleweight), Olympian Toni Rivero (lightweight), Elaine Alora (featherweight), Ester Marie Singson (bantamweight), Lorraine Catalan (flyweight) and Eunice Alora (finweight).

The men's team has Tshomlee Go (bantamweight), Donnie Geisler (lightweight), Michael Alejandrino (heavyweight), Dax Morfe (middleweight), Alex Briones (welterweight), JR Rivero/Brix Ramos (featherweight), Jeffrey Figueroa (flyweight) and John Paul Lizardo/Carlos Padilla (finweight).

Traditional powerhouse Malaysia and Vietnam are expected to crowd the Philippines for the overall title.

GMA should've declared a holiday

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

SO WHAT DO YOU SAY IS THE BIGGEST weapon this government could wield against those working to put it down?

Definitely not the ever-soaring oil prices.

Not the chaos and corruption in the overall system.

Not the choking pollution and rampant criminality.

Not Juetenggate and the exiled members of the First Family who had to run away from accusers.

The magic weapon is right there. No need to search long and hard.

* * *

The happy answer for the besieged President of the Republic came on Sunday morning.

It was a Sunday like no other. And Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo had every reason to glow, gloat and feel glorious.

GMA had just sent three astronauts to the moon!

Don't laugh now and ask if the Philippines had a space program to speak of.

We don't even have a decent weather forecasting station.

Philippine Air Force officials should be flattered if their dilapidated aircraft fleet is mercifully labeled outdated.

* * *

But when Manny Pacquiao successfully spearheaded a boxing expedition that resulted in a three-for-three knockout victory Sunday morning in the United States, GMA jumped in joy.

She grabbed the nearest phone to call and thank the three gallant Pinoys.

The national thrill sparked by the triple triumph could not be aptly measured.

But there's no need to send out pollsters to ask the citizenry, mainly the plodding *masa*, the impact the great RP boxing expedition had on them.

The euphoria and sense of fulfillment felt around here could be equal to what the entire USA had savored when Neil Armstrong and flightmates made it to the moon in July 1969.

It was also around that time when witty Gloria Diaz played it super, shapely and sharp to bag the Miss Universe crown.

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Now, this is not to diminish or undermine the impact of world beauty crowns the Philippines had won.

But these international beauty titles rolled into one cannot measure up to what Filipinos Manny Pacquiao, Brian Viloria and Rey Bautista achieved with their scintillating victories in dear old LA.

OK, GMA had done more than enough, mainly in the questionable handling of the last elections, to divide this nation.

But that awesome fissure was greatly diminished, people in the streets started calling one another brother again, on Sunday morning.

We all shared as one, like poor farmers enjoying a golden harvest, the Philippine masterpiece performed by Pacquiao, Viloria and Bautista right in the heart of the United States. (Hermie Rivera says RP's three main islands were properly represented: Viloria from Ilocos, Bautista from Bohol and Pacquiao from General Santos.)

* * *

It's perfectly fine if you had allowed yourself to get carried away.

So when was the last time we all took a glory ride of this magnitude on a boxing zeppelin?

Those old enough to either see or feel the similar thrill could point to the Summer of 1960, the inauguration of the Araneta Coliseum, when Gabriel Elorde stopped Harold Gomes of Rhode Island in the seventh round to annex the world junior lightweight boxing crown, which the former bootblack from Cebu was to retain for the next seven years.

Well, things were, more or less, in their proper places then.

Elorde had no beleaguered President to shield from opponents and displeased society that had charged her with corruption and cheating.

Anyway, the odder part of the success story is that this government, although it has to ride on the prowess of our poor fighters to project credibility, has no decent national boxing program to speak of.

It's as strange as landing Pinoys on the moon, without the help of a national space program. This, indeed, calls for a holiday.

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LGBA 7-Stag Derby slated at Big Dome

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FOOTBALL: UEFA Champions League; tomorrow at 2:30 a.m.; ESPN —Europe's premier teams continue their quest for the ultimate prize.

Compiled by L. Manguiat

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P'foods battles Red Bull in PBA season opener

By June Navarro

AFTER 17 YEARS, PUREFOODS WILL begin its season without former franchise player Alvin Patrimonio. Red Bull Barako, meanwhile, can't be faulted for looking like the 2002 UAAP champion Ateneo Blue Eagles.

These subplots are sure to make the clash between Purefoods and Red Bull doubly interesting as the 2005-06 Philippine Basketball Association season unfolds at the Araneta Coliseum on Oct. 2.

Hoping to arrest their misfortunes the past four seasons, coach Ryan Gregorio's charges will now carry the name Purefoods Chunkee in their first season of the post-Patrimonio era.

PATRIMONIO

The league's four-time Most Valuable Player retired in the middle of the Philippine Cup last season and now sits as the team manager of the ballclub he powered to five PBA championships.

Months after Patrimonio's departure came the infusion of new blood with rookies Jondan Salvador and BJ Manalo adding youth and dynamism to the lineup.

Purefoods will parade import Marquin Chandler, a 6-foot-6 forward who just finished his collegiate career as San Jose State University's top scorer (19.8 ppg) and rebounder (8.5 rpg) in the 2005 Western Athletic Conference of the US NCAA.

The Barako are still searching for an import after prospects Earl Barron and Victor Thomas hooked up with teams in the NBA. Barron signed a one-year pact with the Miami Heat while Thomas was invited to the Philadephia Sixers camp.

On his third year with the Barako, Enrico Villanueva will reunite with former Ateneo teammates Larry Fonacier and Paolo Bugia, making Red Bull an extension of the victorious Blue Eagles squad in the 2002 UAAP varsity wars. Red Bull signed Fonacier and Bugia to two-year contracts.

Meanwhile, Coca-Cola head coach Binky Favis is expecting the arrival of Alex Carcamo today to reinforce the Tigers in the import-spiced conference next month.

Four more teams make their respective debuts also at the Big Dome three days after the Oct. 2 opening with Barangay Ginebra taking on sister team Coca-Cola in the first game at 4:40 p.m. and Sta. Lucia Realty testing the mettle of powerhouse Alaska in the main match.

Ynares Center in Antipolo City will play host to the much-awaited Talk 'N Text-San Miguel Beer clash on Oct. 7 to be preceded by the Air21-Purefoods curtain-raiser.

Lina taunts POC, invites NBC cagers to RP pool

BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION OF THE Philippines president Joey Lina has invited National Basketball Conference (NBC) players to join the pool for the national team to the Southeast Asian Games once the Fiba ban is lifted.

Lina made the offer to NBC secretary general Tito Palma after lauding the NBC Selection's successful stint in the recent 9th Crown Prince Cup tournament in Thailand.

"On behalf of the BAP, I extend my congratulations to the NBC Selection, which brought honors to the country by bagging the Crown Prince Cup title," said Lina.

The NBC, however, has not responded to the offer. Its president, Nathaniel "Tac" Padilla, said they do not want the "(sports) authorities" to think that the league is "siding with either the BAP or the Philippine Olympic Committee."

The POC general assembly expelled the BAP from Olympic body on June 30, and it has since recognized the Philippine Basketball Federation as the national sports association for basketball.

"We cannot comment on this (offer)," Padilla said.

Composed of players from Laguna Spring, Tribu Sugbu and Mantawi, the NBC Selection swept its opponents from Hong Kong, Singapore, South Korea and Thailand.

Despite the uncertainty of basketball being played in the SEAG, the BAP-backed RP pool under coach Boyzie Zamar continues to practice regularly.

"We are doing everything to have the ban lifted," said Lina, whose organization continues to enjoy the recognition of the Fiba (world basketball federation).

74 days to go before 23rd SEA Games

Equipment, venues ready for Games

By Musong R. Castillo

ON SCHEDULE.

Philippine Southeast Asian Games Organizing Committee (Philsoc) operations chief Richie Garcia yesterday declared that the facelifting of most of the venues and the acquisition of equipment to be used in the 23rd Southeast Asian Games are proceeding according to schedule.

Garcia, a Philippine Sports Commissioner, said renovation works are 85 percent complete while the equipment requested by the National Sports Associations are expected to be all in by the first week of October.

"Everything is going according to schedule," Garcia said. "In fact, we're ahead of schedule."

Garcia, debunking speculations that repair works on venues, especially the Rizal Memorial track and field oval, will not be completed in time for the Nov. 27 to Dec. 5 Games, bared that the rubber surface for the oval will arrive next week.

He added that a new scoreboard, though not as grand as the old one that has adorned the venue for two decades, will be flown in from Malaysia at about the same time.

Only about P100,000 will be spent for the new timing device, a minuscule amount compared to the P13 million estimated for a replacement to the old scoreboard which played a part in the country's SEAG hosting in 1981 and 1991.

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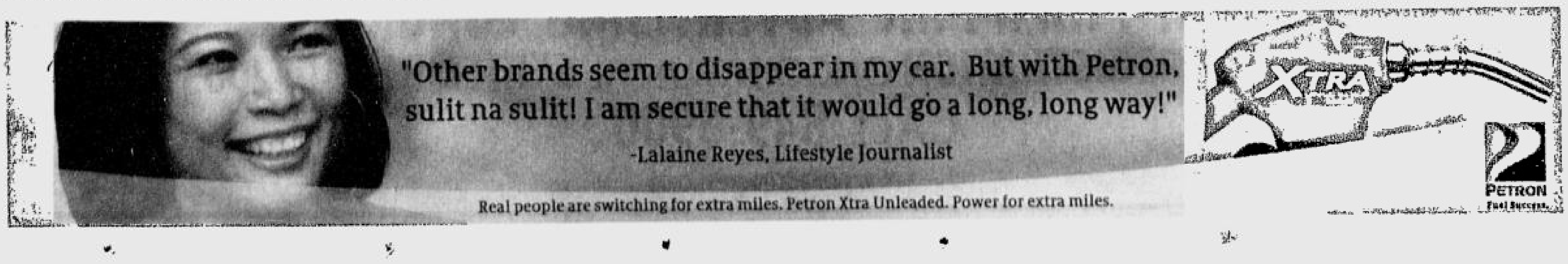
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A stunner in more ways than one

By Musong R. Castillo

HER LONG, BROWN HAIR HELD IN PLACE by a pair of sunglasses on her head and the sleeves of her pink blouse rolled to three-quarter's length, one wouldn't mistake Veronica Domingo to be an athlete of the martial arts kind.

Yes, the 26-year-old stunner is an athlete. And though she calls herself a former volleyball benchwarmer, she is actually a bright gold medal hope in a more bruising sport—taekwondo.

The 5-foot-8 Domingo will be willing her rickety knees to another gold in the Southeast Asian Games this year, probably the final international stop of a career that saw her first languishing in the Far Eastern U volleyball bench.

When a shift to another sport seemed imminent, the choice was pretty much a no-brainer. Domingo had been dabbling in the Korean martial art as a means to improve her footwork for volleyball, where she made the national girls' team in 1997.

And from being her pet cross-training event, taekwondo is now Domingo's forte. In fact, she will be gunning for a third straight SEAG gold. She hopes to win, despite moving up to the welterweight (under-67 kg) class.

But the road to this one will be the roughest, since Domingo is still recovering from anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) injuries to both knees.

"I was able to kick a bag with my right foot on the birthday of Mama Mary (last Sept. 8)," said Domingo, a devout Catholic. "It meant that I can now stand on my left leg with a little more therapy."

Domingo, a mass communications graduate at FEU, tore her right ACL in sparring on May 6 last year, and had surgery the next day.

That injury forced her to use her left leg more, and the torture on it showed after she almost suffered the same injury last July.

Nowadays, Domingo is doing leg-strengthening exercises to save the left knee from being operated on and for her to have a chance at putting on a *dobuk* (taekwondo uniform) in the SEAG anew.

As a volleyball player, Domingo's only international stint in Thailand was limited to warming the bench and winning an accolade that was based on the looks department.

As a taekwondo jin, Domingo has bloomed internationally, carving a name for herself with her skill. She copped the bronze in the 1999 Brunei SEAG before winning the lightweight gold in the next two editions in Kuala Lumpur and Vietnam.

Now that the SEA Games will be held here, with God's help and the entire nation to support her, Domingo hopes to strike again. Then maybe she will no longer be mistaken for just another pretty face.

VERONICA Domingo is ready for one more shot at the gold. LYN RILLON

Jaguars give new mentor Cezar stirring welcome

GAMES TOMORROW
(*EAC Sports Center*)
10 a.m.—EAC vs PSBA
11:30 a.m.—La Salle Dasma vs Olivarez College
1 p.m.—St. Francis vs Acsat

THE PHILIPPINE School of Business Administration Jaguars gave new coach Philip Cezar a rousing welcome yesterday in the fourth Universities and Colleges Athletic Association (UCAA) men's basketball tournament.

The Jaguars stunned the St. Francis of Assisi Doves, 71-68, for their first win in seven games at the Emilio Aguinaldo College gym.

Cezar, a former PBA MVP with the famed Crispa Redmanizers, replaced Jimmy Mariano at the PSBA bench.

The Doves' fourth loss in eight games dropped them to fourth spot.

Christopher de la Cruz and Patrick Mercado powered the Jaguars with 18 points, with Mercado chipping in eight in the third period.

Last Friday, the Jaguars suffered their sixth straight loss, 71-85, to the National College of Business and Arts Wildcats.

Last Friday, Allaine Musni and Nikko Hubalde starred as the Generals defeated Asian College of Science and Technology, 77-58.

Lacuna badminton registration begins

REGISTRATION FOR THE FIRST DANNY LAcuna-Gran Copa de Manila Badminton Cup 2005 is now open at the office of the vice mayor and in all the city's barangays.

Sixty participants, vying in the men's and women's doubles and mixed doubles, will be allowed for the first district during the elimination round slated Oct. 1 at the Badminton City at the YMCA along Arroceros Street, behind City Hall.

Shuttlers from the second district play next on Oct. 8, while the third district eliminations start on Oct. 22 for the right to earn slots in the city-wide finals.

The November leg will start with the elimination round for the fourth district on Nov. 5, followed by the fifth district competitions on Nov. 12.

The winners from each district will then figure in a championship tourney on Nov. 15.

RACING TIPS

AT SLLP BY MR. 999

Race 1—1. Mika's Dream 2. Black Widow 3. Cool Cielo/Twiggy's Charm 4. Tiramisu
Race 2—1. Nureyev Heiress 2. Queen Josephine 3. Western Dancer 4. Terminator
Race 3—1. Wind Runner 2. Ebony Dane
Race 4—1. Dazzling Affair 2. Quant Je Puis 3. El Love Señora 4. Candon's Pride 5. Coat of Arms
Race 5—1. Prickly Heat 2. Bullish Dream 3. Loaded 4. Bashful Lady
Race 6—1. Striker/Better Strike 2. Superwoman 3. Sweet Felicity 4. Run Like D Wind
Race 7—1. Pechanga 2. At All Cost 3. Hello Junior 4. Pyramid Relaunch
Race 8—1. Tribeca 2. Beat D Heat 3. Jaw Breaker 4. Power Dance 5. Extreme Connection 6. Sovereign Dancer

RP taekwondo jins target overall title

ROBERTO Cruz (right) spearheaded the 1991 taekwondo squad. He is part of the coaching staff this time. PDI PHOTO

A PHILIPPINE 16-GOLD MEDAL SWEEP IN TAEKWONDO in the 23rd Southeast Asian Games may be improbable. Half of it, though, is achievable.

"We're always optimistic that we have a chance to complete a sweep of all the 16 gold medals at stake," said RP taekwondo team coach Stephen Fernandez, aware of the vow made by Philippine Taekwondo Association president Robert Aventajado that the Filipino jins can pull off a 16-gold medal romp in the Nov. 27 to Dec. 5 biennial meet.

"The record to beat, though, in taekwondo is eight gold medals," bared Fernandez.

The Filipinos won that many during the 1991 Manila SEA Games when Roberto Cruz led the RP jins to the overall title of the competition. Fernandez believes an eight-gold harvest this time is not hard to achieve.

"Taekwondo is a contact sport, so we don't know what will happen during the bouts," said the 1992 Barcelona Olympics bronze medalist.

Fernandez guested in yesterday's PSA Forum together with Cruz, now a member of the RP coaching staff, and Veronica Domingo.

The 26-year-old Domingo is back with the national team after suffering a foot injury. Previously a lightweight, she will be fighting as a welterweight this time.

Others in the women's RP squad are Sally Solis (heavyweight), Criselda Roxas (middleweight), Olympian Toni Rivero (lightweight), Elaine Alora (featherweight), Ester Marie Singson (bantamweight), Lorraine Catalan (flyweight) and Eunice Alora (finweight).

The men's team has Tshomlee Go (bantamweight), Donnie Geisler (lightweight), Michael Alejandrino (heavyweight), Dax Morfe (middleweight), Alex Briones (welterweight), JR Rivero/Brix Ramos (featherweight), Jeffrey Figueroa (flyweight) and John Paul Lizardo/Carlos Padilla (finweight).

Traditional powerhouse Malaysia and Vietnam are expected to crowd the Philippines for the overall title.

GMA should've declared a holiday

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

SO WHAT DO YOU SAY IS THE BIGGEST weapon this government could wield against those working to put it down?

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Even experts make mistakes

IN HUDDLE

Beth Celis

TOO BAD MIKE Pangilinan's budding career as a self-styled seer and boxing analyst got busted. Correction: Delete the words "too bad," since the entire Filipino nation is happy that his prediction didn't come true. The prophet of doom had picked Hector Velasquez to win over our very own Manny Pacquiao last Sunday (Manila time).

But Mike really shouldn't feel too despondent. Because even real experts commit mistakes. They also make wrong forecasts.

Take last Sunday for example. Without exception, everyone in our table at the newly opened Crowne Plaza Hotel where the Pacquiao-Velasquez fight was aired live from the Staples Center in Los Angeles, believed without a doubt that Erik Morales would handily win over Fahir Raheem.

Even when the fight reached the 10th round with Raheem obviously leading on points, the "boxing heavyweights" who were all gathered in our table, were certain Morales would be declared the winner.

* * *

"Promoter Bob Arum will protect the Pacquiao-Morales rematch on Jan. 21. This fight will lose its luster if Morales gets beaten by Raheem," said Philippine Star columnist Quinito Henson.

The INQUIRER's Recah Trinidad had the same thought. "*Dodoktorin 'yan* (the result), *kahit lamang si Raheem, dahil masisira yung* rematch next year," he said, noting that Morales was "not at home" in his new weight division.

"*Kung hindi mapapatulog ni Raheem si Morales,* Morales will win this," another expert—I can't remember who—remarked.

When the final bell rang, Bobong Velez asked Quinito, who was seated next to him: "*Matatalo pa ba yan?*" referring to Raheem. Quinito admitted Raheem had won the 12th round.

Much to everyone's surprise, the rightful winner was declared the victor. We were even more surprised to learn that the Pacquiao-Morales rematch in January was still on, despite Morales' loss.

* * *

Television coveror Solar Sports set up two venues for the live viewing of last Sunday's bouts in which the Filipinos dealt their opponents a triple whammy: the Crowne Plaza in Ortigas and the nearby SM Megamall.

The three Megamall cinemas used for the event reportedly overflowed with about 3,000 patrons who paid P200 each. At the Crowne Plaza, scores of tables with a dozen chairs each were set up—if Dave Dichuba's count is accurate—but not all of them were filled. It was a good-sized turnout at the Crowne, nevertheless, where tickets sold at P1,000 apiece, brunch included.

In addition to Recah, Quinito, Bobong and Dave, completing the star-studded cast in our table were Ricky Palou of the UAAP and PAVA, former broadcaster Hermie Rivera, Mari Ojeda of the Air Transportation Office, movie actor Eddie Gutierrez and band singer Salvador Vaca.

We invited former PBA commissioner Jun Bernardino and son Nolan, who came in late, to join us at our table, but they opted for seats right behind me where they were joined much later by PBFI president Moying Martelino who practically missed the entire viewing.

* * *

I couldn't help but ask Moying, a dear old friend until he joined forces with the POC, why he had accepted the PBFI post when he had previously refused more attractive positions. At his age, he had said, he didn't want any more headaches or controversies.

"*Gusto ko pang mabuhay nang matagal,*" he would tell me time and again.

I also asked Jun B to confirm reports that he was being endorsed by the PBFI—if the organization gets Fiba recognition—as a candidate for Fiba-Asia president, since election is due soon. I forgot to inquire about reports that he was being groomed as PBFI secretary general, though.

Like Moying, Jun said he wants peace and only the mildest of adrenalin stimulation. He said he is happy with his V-League. No Fiba aspirations for him.

Moying, on the other hand, couldn't say no to the proposition that had been dangled before him.

Forest Hills golfers regain JW-Fed League crown

ITS SPIRITS LIFTED BY A MAGICAL SHOT that resulted in a stunning win in Final Four play, Forest Hills edged Manila Southwoods in the home-and-away finals over the weekend to recapture the Johnnie Walker Federation Golf League championship.

Forest Hills hacked out a 2.5-1.5 decision in its hosting turn on Sunday after coming from behind to forge a 2-2 deadlock at Manila Southwoods the previous day for a 4.5-3.5 victory that gave the Antipolo golfers their second crown after a 2001 breakthrough.

Gary Uy and Bobby Ysip set the tone for the win by easily disposing of high-low rivals Butch Brodett-Teody Pascual, 7-and-6. The aggregate pair of Raffy Garcia-Bobby Chico then put Forest Hills on the brink of victory by dominating Jeric Hechanova-Benjie Sarmiento, 6-and-5, for a 2-0 lead.

Southwoods showed some resilience through the tested pair of Florene de los Santos-Marcel Puyat who took a 1-up win over Emeng Buenaventura-Ronnie Littaua in the alternate shots, leaving Jong Laput and Eding Hizon to decide the issue.

Hizon and Laput clinched the title for Forest Hills by saving par on the 18th and halving the scramble point with Southwoods rivals Tonton Asistio and Romy Vergara, triggering a wild celebration.

"We worked hard for this win and got the breaks we needed," said team captain Bobby Chico, brother of former national team star Ruby. "All 22 members of the team lent support and, looking back, unity carried us to victory."

Southwoods' solid third crack at a championship again fell short in the most important match of the league sponsored by Johnnie Walker and Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp.

Southwoods was already pressing for a 3-1 lead at home but Chico and Garcia emerged from the second rain delay to turn around their match and salvage a 2-and-1 victory.

Already 3 down after the 13th, Laput and Hizon used the break to regroup and win against Asistio and Vergara, 1-up.

It was Garcia who made a wondrous recovery from a wet drive on the playoff hole of the semifinals to save par and power Forest past Eastridge. Southwoods beat defending champion Northwoods in the other semifinal match.

High-flying Saints fall back to earth

ST. CLARE got nothing from miracle man Dennis San Pedro this time around. RYAN LIM

By Marc Anthony Reyes

FAILING TO SCORE A VICTORY THAT WOULD HAVE not meant anything in the first place, St. Clare can only be thankful that it can keep the most important win it has fashioned out so far.

Days after snapping college basketball's most enduring streak, St. Clare ran into the STI brick wall and dropped a 72-61 decision yesterday in the National Athletics Association of Schools, Colleges and Universities at the UM gym.

The loss hardly mattered as the Saints and the UM Hawks—whose amazing streak got nailed at 86 after a dramatic St. Clare triumph—already have cornered the twice-to-beat slots in the Final Four.

What mattered most is that UM president and lawyer Ernesto delos Santos pledged not to file any protest to contest St. Clare's 81-80 triumph over the Hawks Saturday, one which came after a heave by Dennis San Pedro from halfcourt at the buzzer.

"Why create friction and controversy when the league is running smoothly?" Delos Santos said. "We nurtured every win but it is (86-game run) like a rubber band that has to break at some point."

The scores:

STI 72—Wong 14, Micutuan 13, Lunar 8, Mabayo 7, Dia 6, Stapley 5, Mijares 5, Belano 4, Ebuengga 4, Legaspi 4, Botin 2.

ST. CLARE 61—Songco 11, Rivera 10, Manalili 9, Siruma 8, Badley 6, Geraldino 4, Diaz 3, Cole 2, Manansala 2, Gali 2, Masmayor 2, Manas 2, San Pedro 0.

Quarters: 17-16, 34-23, 54-41, 72-61.

Wang shocks world champ

FORMER world champion Lester Pimentel (left) and Richard Ng show their gold-winning form.

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP SILver medalist Willy Wang sparkled with two gold medals in the 2005 national wushu-taolu (form) championships last Sunday at the EAC Sports and Cultural Center.

Wang scored 9.30 points to rule the long weapon event and then shocked world champion Arvin Ting in the changquan competition. Ting had 9.15 and Artemio Montes' 8.76.

Ting came back to win the short weapon gold medal, posting 9.30 points to outclass Montes (8.55) and Ralph Arjane Sanico (8.38).

Two other veterans—Kenneth Lim and Mary Stephanie Agbay—also shone in the tourney which served as part of the eliminations for the selection of the Philippine team for the 23rd Southeast Asian Games here by bagging two gold medals.

Lim carded 9.13 points to top the 42-step taljijian and submitted 9.20 to rule the 42-step taljiquan.

Agbay topped the women's 42-step taljijian and 42-step taljiquan with 9.00 and 8.95 markers, respectively.

The other big winners were former world champion Lester Pimentel and Asian Games bronze medalist Richard Ng, who combined for 9.13 points to win the men's duilian.

The other gold medalists in the tourney sponsored by San Miguel Coffee and the Philippine Sports Commission were Anthony Ting, Magdalena Pang-ot, Henson See, Nina Felichi Fabroa, Vincent Naval, Mary Evangeline Agbay, Janice Hung, Denver Parantac, Aida Yang and Vicky Ting.

Milo Marathon nat'l finals listing begins

THE 29TH NATIONAL MILO Marathon is down to its final regional elimination race on Sunday in Santiago City, Isabela.

Today, at the Vasquez Madrigal Plaza Bldg. at 51 Annapolis St. in Greenhills, San Juan, registration begins for the National MILO Marathon Finals slated on October 9 in Metro Manila.

Aside from the centerpiece 42K event where qualifiers from the 13 regional legs vie for the P75,000 top purse, trophies and cash prizes are to be given away to the other minor events.

Registration will end once the target of 14,000 runners has been reached.

The 29th National MILO Marathon Finals on October 9 is held in partnership with Bayview Park Hotel, Adidas, Cebu Pacific, Smart Kid, Department of Tourism, Addict Mobile Prepaid and Powerbar. It is also supported by the Manila Sports Council headed by Ali Atienza.

Registration fees are: P50 for the 3K Kiddie run and P100 for the 10K and 5K fun run. All entries must be accompanied with a 300 grams MILO label.

Motorshow 14 events galore

MOTORSHOW 14, THE COUNtry's biggest and longest-running auto and cycle show slated Thursday to Sunday, has lined up a sports-filled weekend at The Forum of the Philippine International Convention Center. Motorshow 14 is organized by the Philippine Exhibits and Themeparks Corp. Suzuki Phils. will hold its first ever Team Suzuki One Make Race on Saturday at Kart Trak at the Boom na Boom complex. On Sunday, Motorshow will hold its MMDA Chairman's Cup Car Clubs Gymkhana at the Red Parking of the PICC. Motorshow is sponsored by Hyundai, Suzuki Phils., Petron, Globe Handyphone, Sustagen Premium, Axe, Confiance Inc., Directories Philippines Inc., Aimogo, NU 107 Rock, Magic 89.9 and Crossover 105.1.

Tayao, Bondoc top Pisfa golf tilt

KEVIN TAYAO OF INLAND CORP. TOOK LOW-gross honors with a 74 and Jojo Bondoc of Eagle Express Group bagged the lowest net title with a 67 in the 5th Pisfa Golf Tournament at the Sta. Elena Golf Club in Cabuyao, Laguna, recently.

Paul Villena of NYK Logistics scored a net 70 to top Class A, beating Nestor Sevilla of K-Line Air, and Eric Borromeo of Airlift Asia, who also carded 70s, on account of two birdies and 11 pars, said Philippine International Seafreight Forwarders Association (Pisfa) president Rico V. Brizuela.

In Class B, Paul Tolentino of Wordlink Freight Systems and Greg Sebastian of Hankyu International Transport each scored a 71 but Tolentino took the champion's trophy on more pars, 3-2. Ramon de Leon (72) of Pac-Atlantic Lines was third.

Nacho Garcia of Asia Trans International lorded it over Class C with a 74 score.

Bernie Cacho of NYK Logistics ruled Class D with a 79 with Takeshi Araya second and Joey Dino third. Cynthia Antonio of Eagle Express netted a 72 to top women's play over Totelle Dimson.

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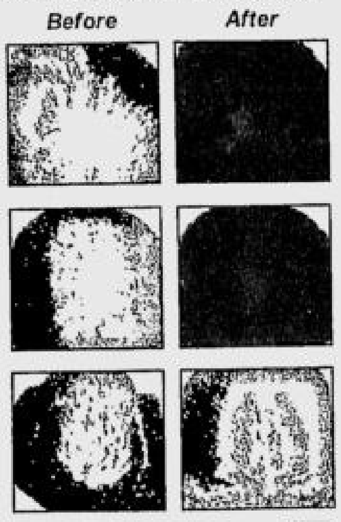

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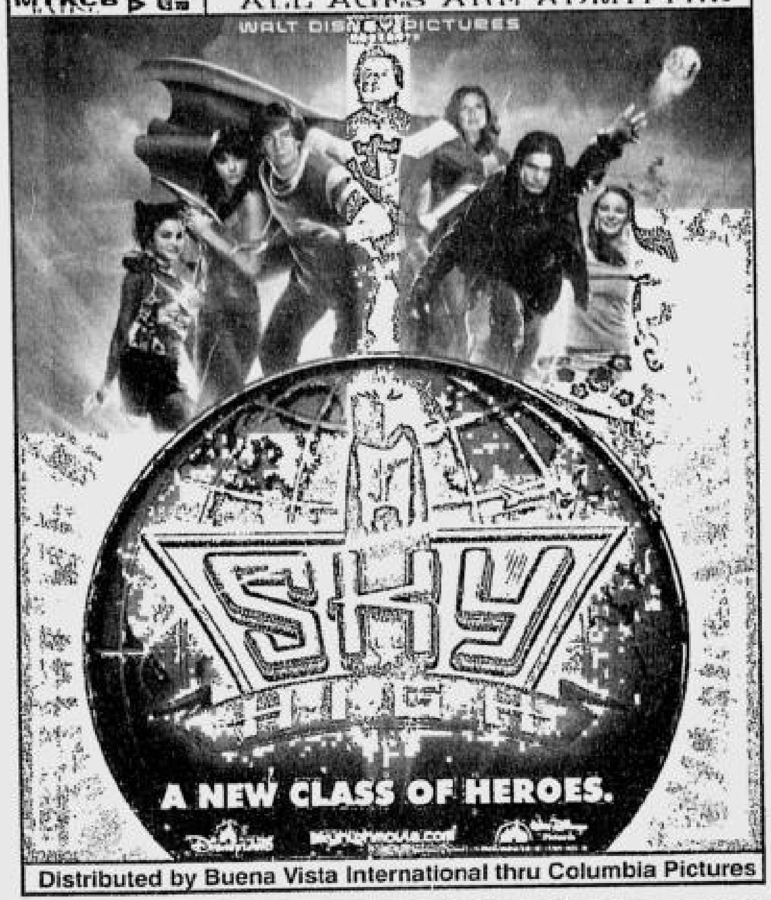

Distributed by Buena Vista International thru Columbia Pictures

OPENING TODAY

Lovestruck

Stars Jolina Magdangal, Jennylyn Mercado, Mark Herras
Directed by Louie Lagdameo Ignacio

Are you a member of the lonely hearts club band? Get tips and advice from the love guru herself, Jandra, played by none other than the funky fashion princess herself, Jolina Magdangal.

Cinderella Man

Stars Russell Crowe, Renée Zellweger, Paul Giamatti
Directed by Ron Howard

In his June 2 review for the Chicago Sun-Times, Roger Ebert wrote: "I think of Crowe as a tough customer, known to get in the occasional brawl. Yes, he plays men who are inward and complex... but neither he nor anyone else in a long time has played such a nice man as the boxer Jim Braddock."

The Crow 4

Stars Edward Furlong, David Boreanaz, Tara Reid
Directed by Lance Mungia

This review was posted on beyondhollywood.com: "Ah, 'The Crow' series. It started out so well, but has become so pathetic after just four installments... [This] is a poor film in almost every respect, completely devoid of the mystique of the previous films."

OPENING/ A25

Trip the light fantastic at Kublai's

KUBLAI'S, A MONGOLIAN RESTAURANT on Katipunan Road, Quezon City, invites ballroom aficionados to "Dance the Night Away" on Sept. 17.

Tickets to the dance event are priced at P500 per person, inclusive of the Fresh Grill buffet and a single drink. Dance instructors will be available free of charge.

The event is made possible by San Mig Light, Then and Now Beauty Salon, RS Components Limited, Millennium Plans, Globelines, and Luxasia Philippines.

For reservations, call 928-4841 or 928-4843.

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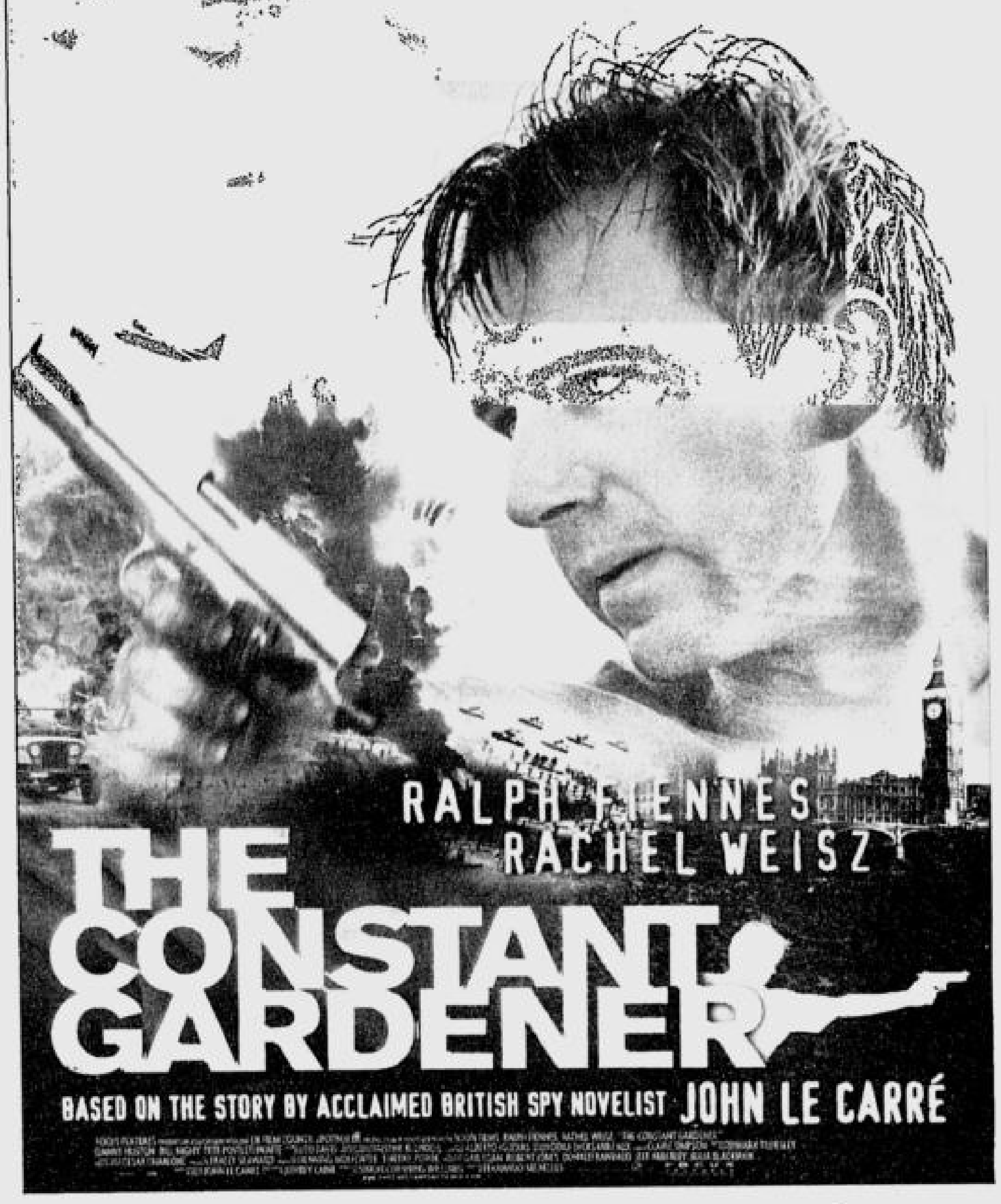
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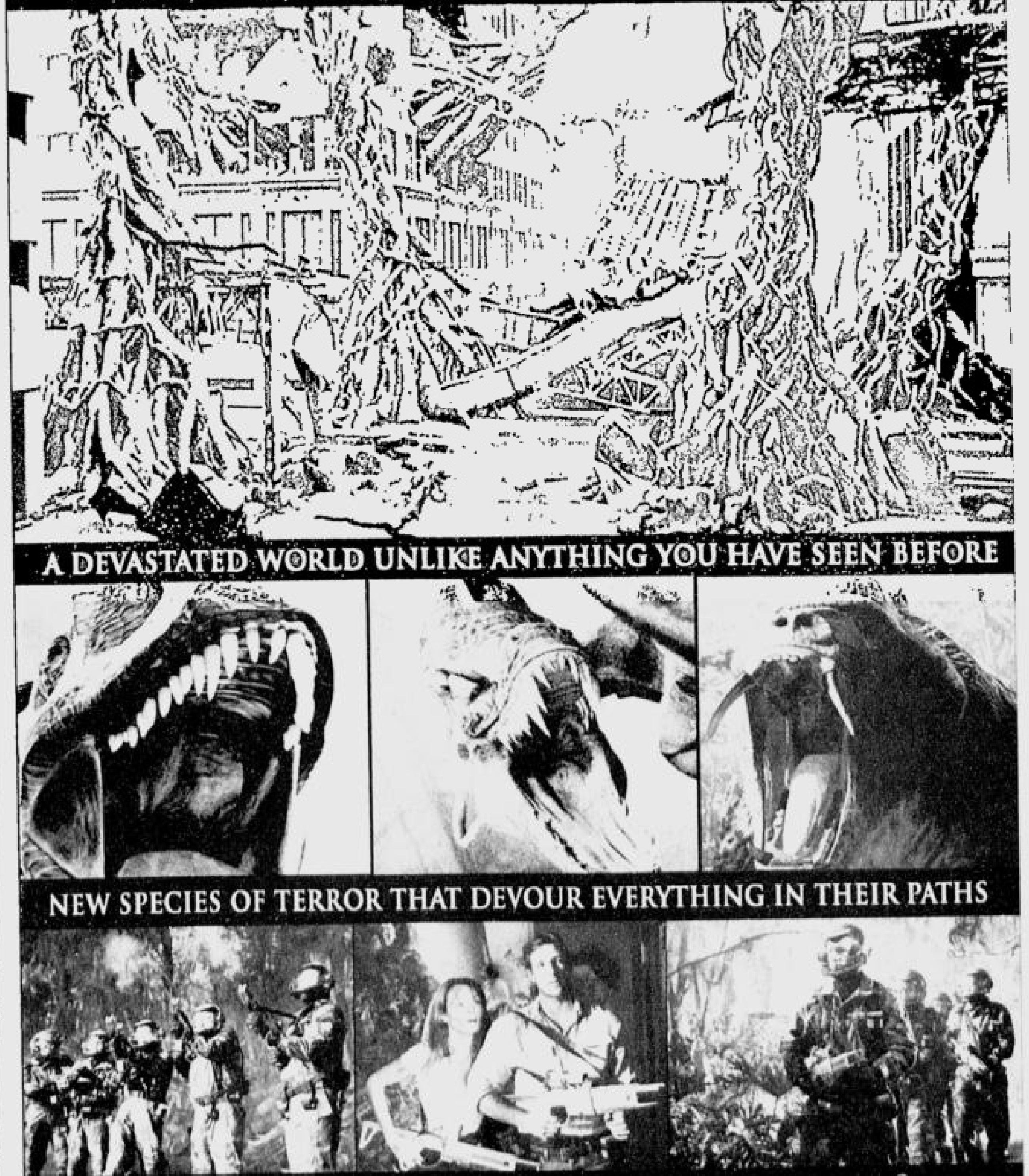
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Boob-tube booboos

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

HOST: WHAT DO YOU WANT TO SAY TO your son, who is doing very well in this competition? Talk to him.

Guest: *Anak*, I just want you to know I am how proud of you!

(*How* proud, Dad?—Tell us!)

* * *

Host: Do you have a good relationship with your son? Are you close?

Guest: Of course. *Kasi*, ever since, ever since, *hindi kami naging* another *sa isa't isa*.

(Ever since, ever since? *Naging another?*—Cute.)

* * *

Host: How can we sin the fight against terrorism?

Guest: We have to get united, that's the only way *na mananalo tayo laban sa kalaban sa* terrorism!

(Hey, whose side are you on?)

* * *

Host: How can we get the ordinary citizen, the man in the streets, to understand and care about the many issues facing our country now?

Guest: It's a media problem. We have to use the media, we have to explain the issues in a co-local way!

(Co-local?—Oh colloquial!)

* * *

Host: What can we learn here about the Katrina hurricane tragedy in the States?

Guest: We have to look at our own water situation, to put up preventive structures in advance to keep out the sea—otherwise, we will also be inundade!

(*Ay*, be inundade!)

* * *

Host: What is this new cream good for?

Guest: It's good to use for the dark pots on your skin!

(Out, dark pots, out I say!)

* * *

Host: Aside from covering up the blemishes, what else can it do?

Guest: It also moiturizes!

(*Ay*, moiturizes!)

* * *

Host: What do you hate about show biz these days?

Guest: They don't respect stars anymore.

When you talk about your talent fee for a production, *para kang isdang nakikipagtawaran*—*ang* cheap!

(*Ang isda ang nakikipagtawaran? Bago 'yon, a.*)

Host: Do you know? We are now seen by Filipinos in different parts of the world! Why don't you greet them?

Guest: Hello, to US, Canada and some other parts of the worlds!

(*Ano daw?*)

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a selection of European short films
from the Clermont-Ferrand Short Film Festival

24/7 UP EURO

OPENING THIS WEEK

From page A24

A Sound of Thunder

Stars Edward Burns, Catherine McCormack, Ben Kingsley
Directed by Peter Hyams

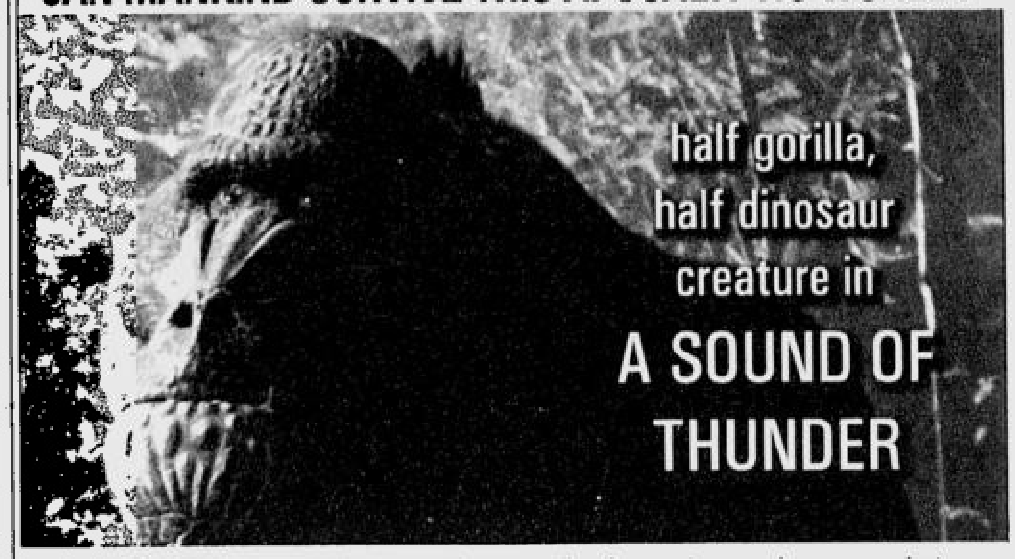
In his Sept. 2 review for The New York Times, A. O. Scott wrote: " 'A Sound of Thunder,' a scrap of late-summer damaged goods from Warner Brothers ostensibly based on Mr. Bradbury's tale... illustrates the dangers of turning a lean, elegant short story into a loud, noisy, incoherent B movie."

Elvis Has Left the Building

Stars Kim Basinger, John Corbett, Sean Astin
Directed by Joel Zwick

David Nusair wrote this July 30 review for reelfilm.com: "Undoubtedly far more effective as a romance than as a comedy, thanks to the genuine chemistry between Basinger and Corbett. Both actors deliver charismatic, engaging performances—to the extent that it's hard not to wish that they were in a better movie."

CAN MANKIND SURVIVE THIS APOCALYPTIC WORLD?



"A Sound of Thunder is about consequences," says director Peter Hyams (director of the best Arnold Swaaneger movie End Of Days) . "We cannot predict exactly what would happen if something in the past were changed and how that would affect the present. But this movie allows us to speculate about one possible and frightening option."

With the help of Oscar-winning visual effects supervisor Tim McGovern, Hyams powerfully delivers his vision of some of the more calamitous possibilities posed by acclaimed writer Ray Bradbury's cautionary tale - a task that involved his overseeing nearly 900 individual effects shots at every stage of production. "The premise," he offers, "is that if you alter anything in the past it will impact the timeline in a series of ripples extending out to God-knows-what ultimate effect."

Warner Bros. expensive $100m plus production starts in the year is 2050 and the world is out of control.

Massive roots from sprouted vegetation burst upwards, breaking through walls and windows, splitting the pavement and cracking open buildings and engulf the cities . Trees and plants that didn't exist now rise and flourish as if deep in the tropics, and armies of carnivorous insects ravage everything in their path. Terrified tenants flee their homes and run into the slippery and steaming streets but the streets are more treacherous than the buildings.

"The world has turned into a primordial jungle. People are fast becoming the prey rather than the predators and it's nearly physically impossible to get around," Hyams describes the stunning transformation. "The world is trashed."

The devastation escalates as evolutionary waves impact higher life forms, targeting existing species "in the order in which they evolved with human life not far ahead. Species of remarkably intelligent animals have already appeared, largely lizard-like yet bearing eerie resemblance to early primates, hungrily prowling for food in organized packs. Winged creatures swoop down from the sky with deadly accuracy, their powerful claws easily ripping through the flimsy metal skin of cars and trucks to extract the prey inside.

Descendants of ancient dinosaurs, these fearsome beasts are the progeny of an evolutionary history different to the one we know - in this alternate scenario, the dinosaurs did not become extinct. They survived and thrived, and through the ensuing 65 million years of natural selection the best and brightest of them developed into creatures of keen intellect, superior senses and formidable physical prowess. Not the ungainly, lumbering beasts depicted in grade school science texts, these sleek adaptable animals are in the prime of their existence.

Can mankind survive this apocalyptic world?

CHALLENGING THE GREAT "WHAT-IFs"

Master storyteller Ray Bradbury first published the provocative short story A Sound of Thunder in 1952. Since its debut, this deliciously disturbing tale about the human race on the brink of annihilation due to one man's reckless blunder has appeared in more than 80 anthologies worldwide, remains a perennial highlight in school texts and continues to inspire writers and filmmakers.

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11:55FS/12:10MF/02:30/04:50/07:10
09:10FS/09:30LMF/11:30END
3 SOUND OF THUNDER
11:50FS/12:00MF/01:54/03:48/05:42/07:36
09:20LFS/09:30LFS/11:55END

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12 SKY HIGH

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
1 LISENSYADONG KAMAO
2 LONG WEEKEND
3 D' ANOTHERS
4 THE CAVE
5 CINDERELLA MAN
6 SOUND OF THUNDER
7 BROTHERS GRIMM
8 SKY HIGH
9 LOVESTRUCK
10 EVIL EYES
11 RED EYE
12 LONGEST YARD

SM NORTH EDSA
1 THE CROW 4: WICKED PRAYER
2 BROTHERS GRIMM
3 LOVESTRUCK
4 THE CAVE
5 LONG WEEKEND
6 RED EYE
7 CINDERELLA MAN
8 SOUND TRUCK

SM CITY STA MESA
1 SOUND OF THUNDER
2 CINDERELLA MAN
3 BROTHERS GRIMM
4 THE CAVE
5 LOVESTRUCK
6 RED EYE
7 LONG WEEKEND
8 SKY HIGH
9 LAZARUS CHILD
10 LONGEST YARD

SM CITY SOUTHMALL
1 SOUND OF THUNDER
2 LOVESTRUCK
3 BROTHERS GRIMM
4 CINDERELLA MAN
5 LONG WEEKEND
6 SKY HIGH
7 THE CAVE
8 RED EYE
9 LONGEST YARD
10 LISENSYADONG KAMAO

SM CITY MANILA
1 THE CAVE
2 SOUND OF THUNDER
3 ELVIS HAS LEFT THE BUILDING
4 BROTHER GRIMM
5 SKY HIGH
6 CINDERELLA MAN
7 RED EYE
8 LONG WEEKEND
9 LOVESTRUCK
10 LISENSYADONG KAMAO
11 EVIL EYES
12 THE CROW 4: WICKED PRAYER

SM SUPERCENTER SUCAT
1 BROTHERS GRIMM
2 SOUND OF THUNDER
3 LOVESTRUCK
4 CINDERELLA MAN

SM CITY BICUTAN
1 RED EYE
2 LOVESTRUCK
3 SOUND OF THUNDER
4 BROTHERS GRIMM

SM SAN LAZARO
1 SOUND THUNDER
2 BROTHERS GRIMM
3 RED EYE
4 CINDERELLA MAN
5 THE CAVE
6 LOVESTRUCK

LUZON

SM CITY PAMPANGA
1 THE CAVE
2 CINDERELLA MAN
3 LONGEST YARD
4 RED EYE
5 LOVESTRUCK
6 LOVESTRUCK

SM CITY BACOOR
1 SKY HIGH
2 LOVESTRUCK
3 SOUND OF THUNDER
4 THE CAVE
5 BROTHERS GRIMM
6 LOVESTRUCK
7 RED EYE
8 CINDERELLA MAN

SM CITY DASMARINAS
1 LOVESTRUCJ
2 RED EYE
3 THE GREAT RAID
4 LONGEST YARD

SM CITY LUCENA
1 THE GREAT RAID
2 LOVESTRUCK
3 SKELETON KEY
4 SISTERHOOD IN TRAVELING PANTS

SM CITY BAGUIO
1 RED EYE
2 SKY HIGH
3 MUST LOVE DOGS
4 LOVESTRUCK

SM CITY MARILAO
1 LONGEST YARD
2 LOVESTRUCK
3 LOVESTRUCK
4 THE CAVE

SM CITY BATANGAS
1 SKY HIGH
2 LOVESTRUCK
3 SKELETON KEY
4 DUKES OF HAZZARD

VISAYAS AND MINDANAO

SM CITY CEBU
1 THE CAVE
2 BROTHERS GRIMM
3 SOUND OF THUNDER
4 SKY HIGH
5 SISTERHOOD IN TRAVELING PANTS
6 RED EYE
7 LOVESTRUCK
8 LONGEST YARD

SM CITY ILOILO
1 LONGEST YARD
2 RESERVED
3 SKELETON KEY
4 LOVESTRUCK
5 TRUTH ABOUT LOVE
6 DUKES OF HAZZARD
7 RESERVED
8 EVIL EYES

SM CITY DAVAO
1 THE CAVE
2 MAN OF THE HOUSE
3 LOVESTRUCK
4 DUKES OF HAZZARD
5 LONGEST YARD
6 SKY HIGH

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO
1 LONGEST YARD
2 LOVESTRUCK
3 TRUTH ABOUT LOVE
4 VALIANT

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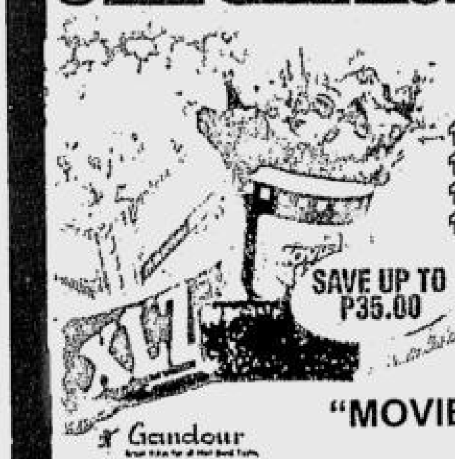
3 DAY SALE MOVIE BUNDLE



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1 THE LONGEST YARD • THX
2:45 5:15 7:45 10:00

6 LISENSYADONG KAMAO
1:00 3:15 5:30 7:45 9:25

2 THE BROTHERS GRIMM
11:20 2:00 4:40 7:20 10:00

7 THE TRUTH ABOUT LOVE
12:20 2:40 5:00 7:20 9:40

3 PERFECT CATCH Sneak Preview
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30, 9:50

8 RED EYE
1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50

4 THE CAVE
12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

9 THE DUKES OF HAZZARD
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

5 THE LONG WEEKEND
1:00 3:15 5:30 7:45 10:00

10 MUST LOVE DOGS
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

ERMITA 536-7809 to 12

1 RED EYE
12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 9:50

2 THE LONGEST YARD
12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00

5 THE BROTHERS GRIMM
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 10:00

3 PERFECT CATCH Sneak Preview
12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00

6 THE LONG WEEKEND
12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 9:50

4 THE CAVE
12:35 2:50 5:05 7:30 9:50

7 SKY HIGH
12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00

METRO EAST 682-8193 • 682-8199

1 THE TRUTH ABOUT LOVE
12:50 2:50 4:50 6:50 9:00

5 THE LONGEST YARD
1:40 4:00 6:20 9:00

2 THE CAVE
1:40 4:10 6:40 9:10

6 RED EYE
12:35 2:45 4:55 7:05 9:15

3 THE DUKES OF HAZZARD
1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 9:00

7 THE BROTHERS GRIMM
1:05 3:45 6:25 9:05

4 SKY HIGH
2:10 4:30 6:50 9:10

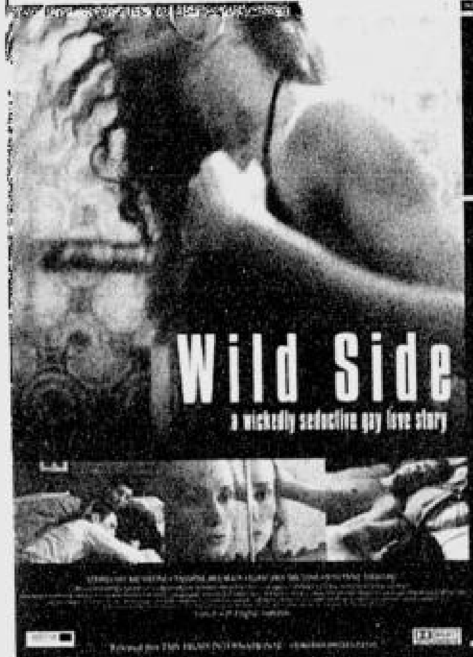
8 PERFECT CATCH Sneak Preview
1:05 3:45 6:25 9:05

CITISQUARE MALABON 288-2575

1 LISENSYADONG KAMAO
2 THE DUKES OF HAZZARD
3 RESERVE
4 RESERVE

PIONEER 687-5378

1 RED EYE
2 THE BROTHERS GRIMM
3 PERFECT CATCH Sneak Preview
4 THE LONG WEEKEND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2 LISENSYADONG KAMAO
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2 THE GREAT RAID
3 RED EYE
4 LISENSYADONG KAMAO

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3 SKY HIGH
4 THE LONGEST YARD
5 EVIL EYES
6 SKELETON KEY

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2 BEWITCHED
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4 ARAHAN
5 SHAOLIN VS. STONE WARRIORS
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G4 GLORIETTA 4	1 A SOUND OF THUNDER	2 THE BROTHERS GRIMM	3 THX CINDERELLA MAN GUARANTEED SEATS	4 LORDS OF DOGTOWN	5 SKY HIGH	6 LOVESTRUCK	7 RED EYE
GB1 GREENBELT 1	1 CINDERELLA MAN	2 LOVESTRUCK					
GB3 GREENBELT 3	1 THX THE BROTHERS GRIMM GUARANTEED SEATS	2 THX CINDERELLA MAN GUARANTEED SEATS	3 LONG WEEKEND GUARANTEED SEATS	4 A SOUND OF THUNDER GUARANTEED SEATS	5 RED EYE GUARANTEED SEATS		
ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 THX CINDERELLA MAN	2 THE BROTHERS GRIMM	3 LOVESTRUCK	4 A SOUND OF THUNDER	5 RED EYE		
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'Red Eye': Flying paranoid

REVIEW

SEATMATES Rachel McAdams and Cillian Murphy

By Oliver M. Pulumbarit
Contributor

A SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT take on hostage-taking and paranoia, "Red Eye" is timely with its not-so-sneaky message of female empowerment and the dangers of technology-aided terrorism.

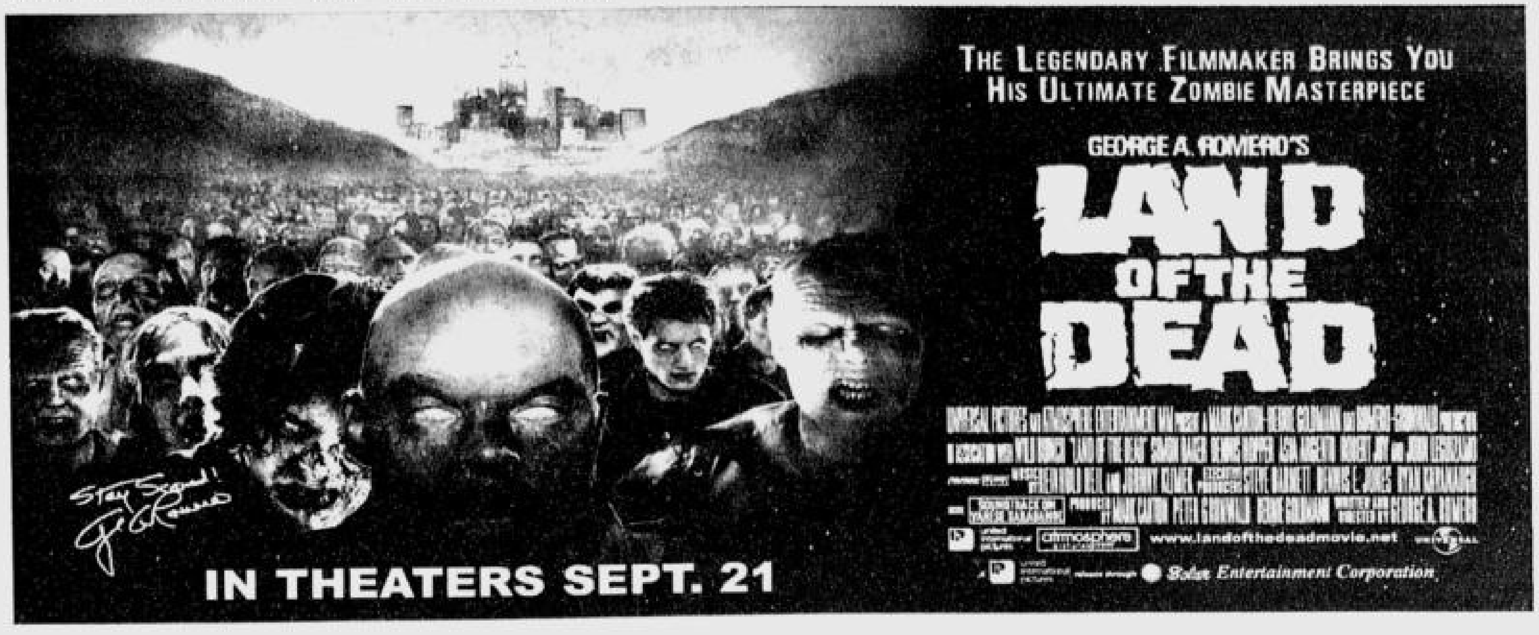
The new Wes Craven thriller's minimalist sets are cramped and confining, which immediately create tension between its two main characters. The claustrophobic airplane scenarios create genuine interaction between two strangers, cheery hotel employee Lisa (Rachel McAdams) and gabby businessman Jackson (Cillian Murphy), whose seemingly random meeting at an airport escalates into a hostage drama in the skies. Yes, we've seen this idea before in different incarnations as "Ransom," "Phone Booth," "Dead Calm" and most recently, "Cellular." "Red Eye" is a chop suey merging of those films at times, and Craven's teen-slasher hit "Scream" by the end, so it's definitely far from unique.

But what gives it its own distinctive imagery are the flight drama scenes, where Lisa is coerced into making a crucial call using the plane's high-tech phone service, as well as the suffocating proximity of the two characters. They're seatmates in a fully booked red eye (late night/overnight) flight, but Jackson's careful planning prevents her from seeking help. It's also notable that the movie's stars make the whole trip viewable and credible on our end.

McAdams has appeared in "The Notebook" and "Mean Girls," while Murphy has essayed roles in "28 Days Later" and "Batman Begins." The pair's versatility is useful in giving their characters here a required duplicity. They get to explore character transformations throughout the film, which makes up for its missing element of surprise. Yes, we can see the snappy comebacks and fatal mistakes coming miles away, but McAdams and Murphy stop them from degenerating into a yawn-fest.

If there's a pattern that can be discerned from Craven's recent films, it's his careful attention to shaping distraught young women into decisive heroines. He does that well with Lisa here. The supposed victim overcomes her tribulations, baits her oppressor into her own element and, well, she's expectedly a better, wiser person by the movie's end.

"Red Eye" is only about an hour and twenty minutes long, which is a little surprising because it actually feels stretched out almost like real time during the airplane scenes. In any case, it's another example of celluloid art predictably imitating life, but with a requisite fairy tale resolution. And speaking of crossing reality's borders, ex-"Survivor" castaway Colby Donaldson appears as a bodyguard with a few lines, which can be distracting if you're familiar with the former TV contestant.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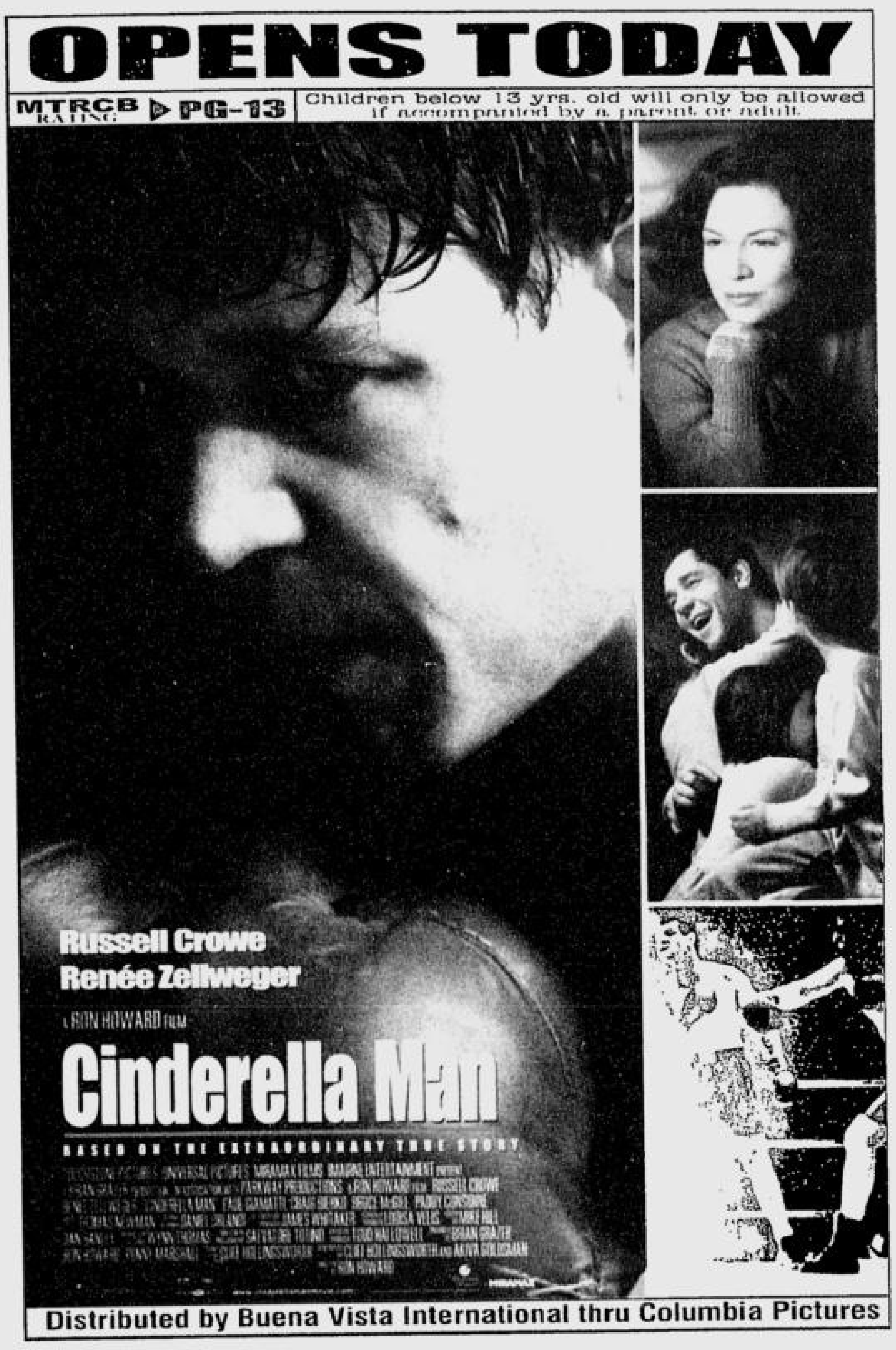
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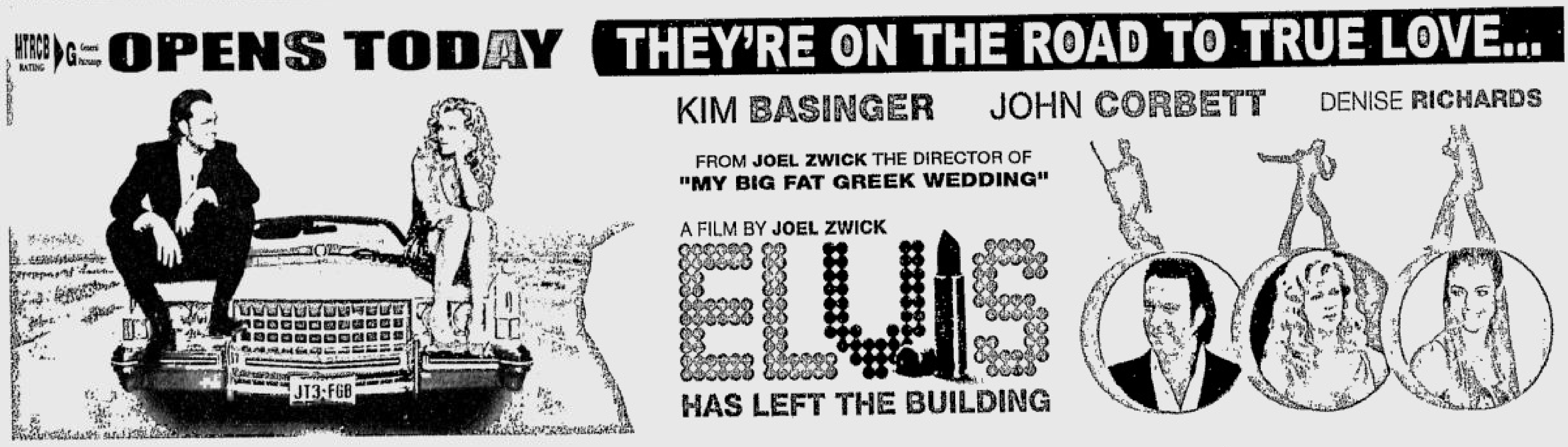
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Early favorite booted out of reality show

When Rico walked out of the 'Big Brother' house last Saturday, he had tears in his eyes. But to his surprise, a thousand people had gathered on the street to welcome him

By Nini Valera

RICO BARRERA, THE FIRST "Pinoy Big Brother" voted off, said he would do anything to become a star.

"*Gagawin ko po lahat, huwag lang bold* (I would do anything except go bold)," he told INQUIRER Entertainment in an exclusive interview last Monday.

"I feel I have something to show when it comes to acting," he said in Filipino.

Being one of the contestants of the reality-based TV show also gave Rico, 23, the chance to make it known to his mother's friends that she was her son and not the nephew that she had always introduced him to be. He claimed that he did not harbor any bad feelings.

"I'm glad her friends now know that I am not her nephew but her son," he confided. "She always introduced me as her nephew. Now, her friends know the truth."

Rico's parents separated when he was only 6. Rico has been living with his father. He described himself as a troubled teen, indulging in drugs and alcohol and joining fraternities in schools.

"*Sobrang pasaway* (Spoiled rotten)" was how he described himself.

"I would always get into fights because of the frat," he said.

Lonely guy

Rico started to pray when he became a contestant in "Pinoy Big Brother."

"I cried almost every night on the first week," he said. "I was lonely. I missed my family, my friends."

Rico said he had not expected to be thrown out of the "Big Brother House" during the first round of elimination last Saturday.

"I thought Racquel would be the first to go," Rico said, referring to the bossy school teacher most people wanted to see booted out from the show.

"The audience probably thought I would not be voted out so they did not vote for Racquel or Franzene [to go]."

An early audience favorite, Rico walked out of the "Big Brother" house last Saturday night with tears in his eyes. But to his surprise, at least a thousand people had gathered on the street to welcome him.

"I was so sad when I left the house. But when I saw the crowd, I became happy," he admitted. "I didn't expect a crowd to be waiting for me."

That night, he posed with about 100 people for pictures, Rico said.

The college dropout from Olongapo City also did not expect to draw a crowd when he went shopping in the mall last Sunday.

"I couldn't go anywhere without people calling my name," he said.

Shopping spree

For the first time in his life, Rico also spent P21,000 on new clothes.

"I've never done that before," confided the former *hosto* in Japan. "But the audience had already seen my wardrobe. I wore all my clothes during the three weeks I was in the 'Big Brother' house. I needed new clothes for my guestings in other shows."

He said the shopping spree was courtesy of ABS-CBN, which airs "Pinoy Big Brother" Monday to Thursday on Channel 2, and on Saturday on Channel 23.

The first thing Rico did on his first day of "freedom" after being confined without visitors at the "Pinoy Big Brother House" was to get a facial from dermatologist Vicki Belo. The facial was also a first for him.

"I thought they would just wash my face with soap, but they started pricking my pimples," he said. "I didn't know a facial could hurt that much."

Until the next elimination two weeks from now, cameras would be following Rico to document his life after "Pinoy Big Brother." The footage will be shown in the next episodes of the show, which is also available uncut, 24 hours on SkyCable and ZPDee Internet subscribers.

Whatever the future holds for him, Rico would always look at "Pinoy Big Brother" as a life-changing experience. He said he would follow the show to its finale in December together with millions of viewers of this real-life soap. He would be watching the show every night and feel sad thinking about his 11 housemates.

"I miss them already," he said.

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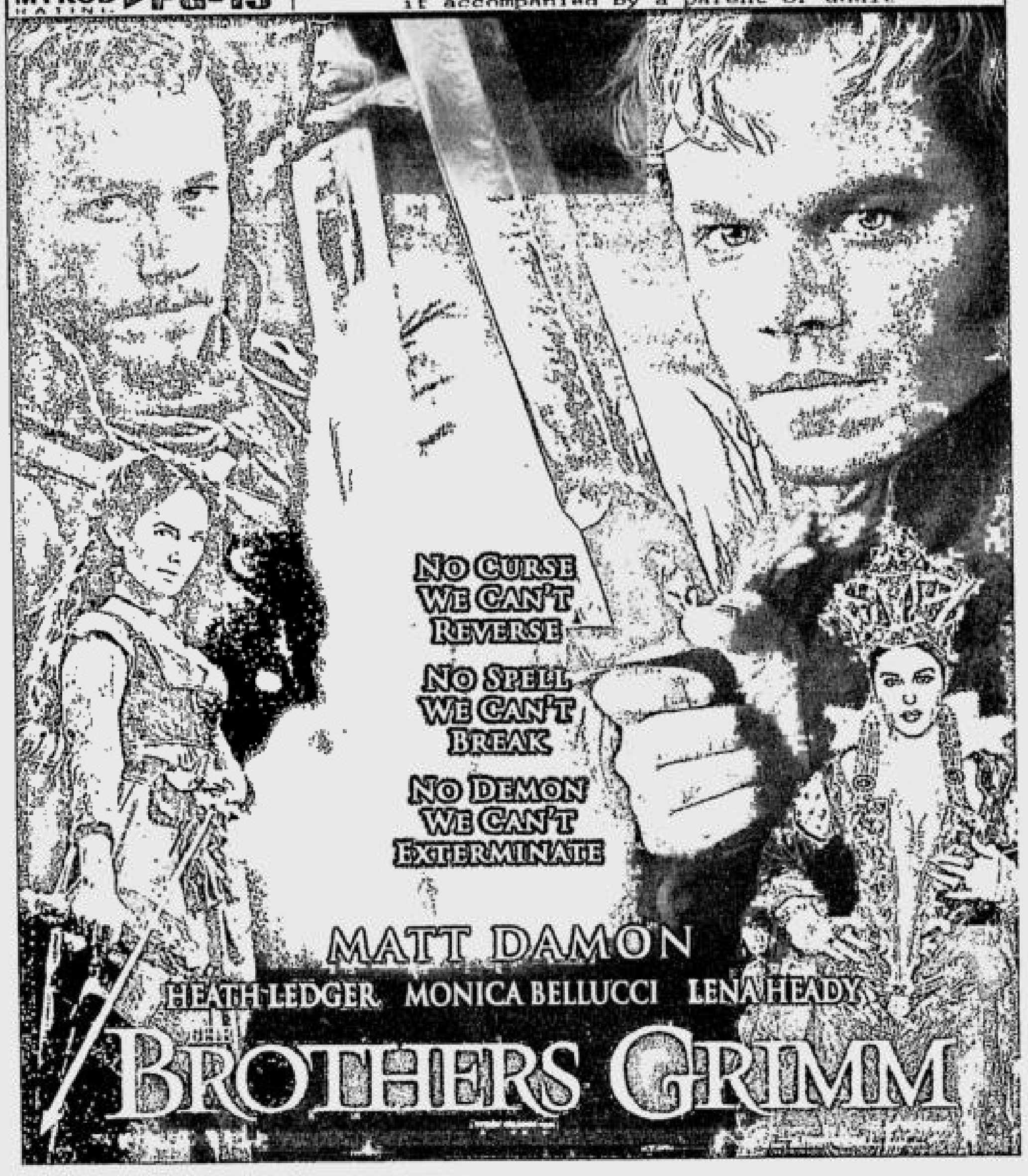
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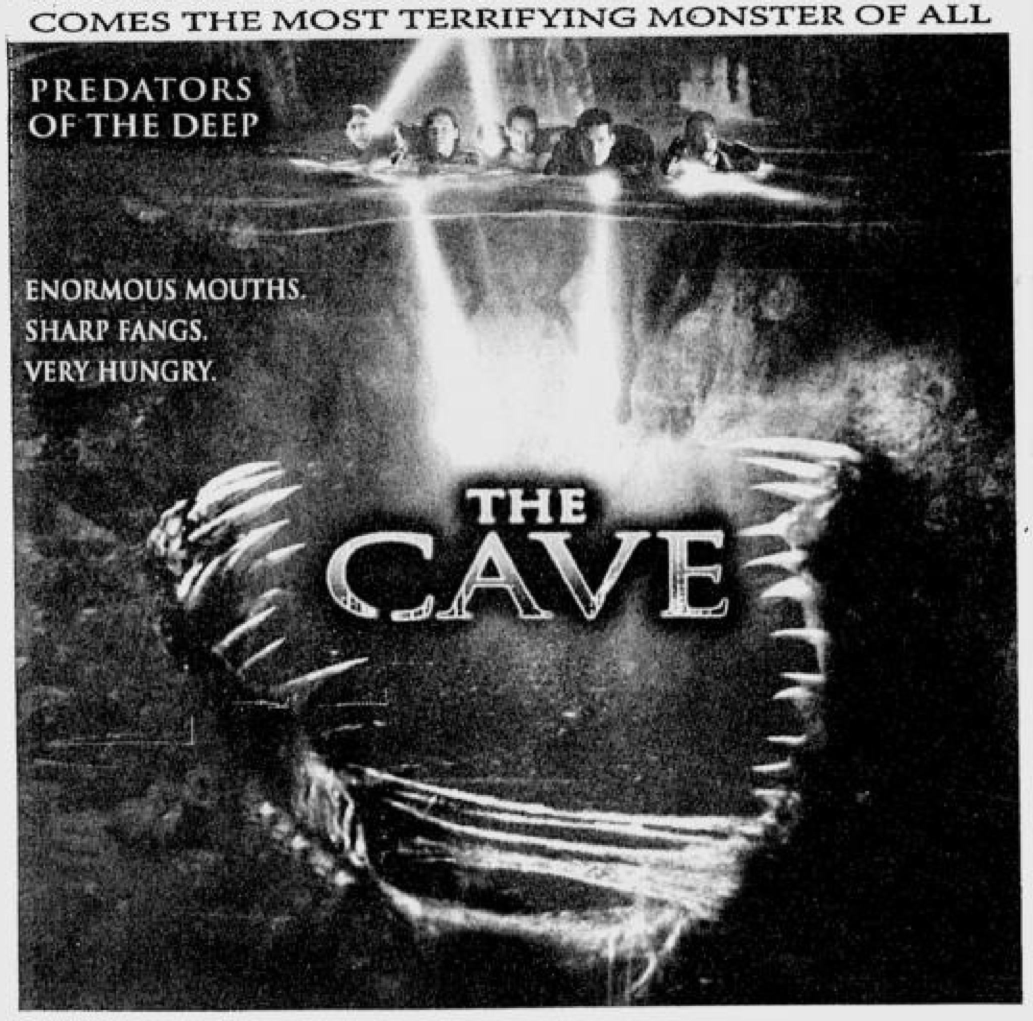
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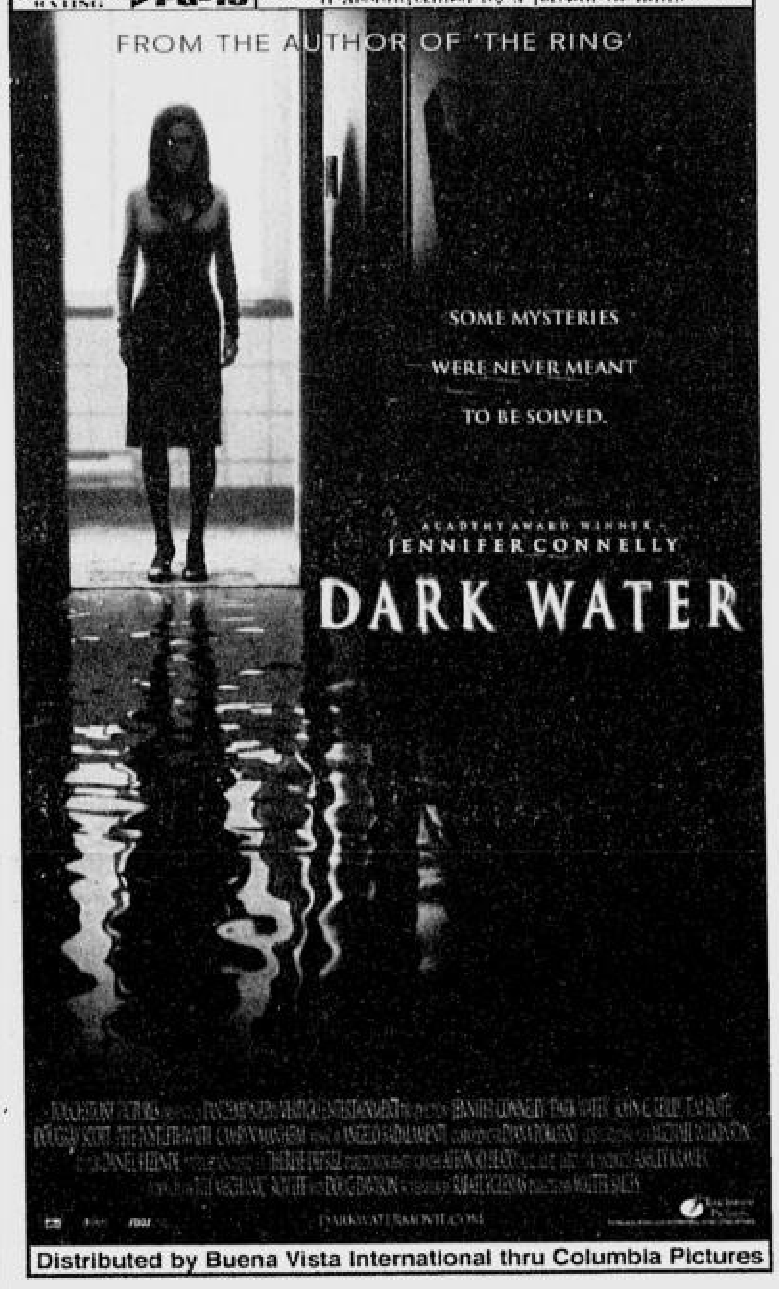
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A SOUND OF THUNDER 1:35 / 4:10 / 6:45 / 9:20	THE BROS. GRIMM 1:50 / 4:20 / 6:50 / 9:20
ELVIS HAS LEFT THE BLDG. 12:20 / 2:30 / 4:40 / 6:50 / 9:00	RED EYE 12:40 / 2:50 / 5:00 / 7:10 / 9:20
THE CROW 4 12.20 / 2:30 / 4:40 / 6:50 / 9:00	SKY HIGH 1:45 / 4:10 / 6:35 / 9:00

ALI MALL CINEMAS

① LOVESTRUCK	④ LIPSTICK 12:20 / 2:20 / 4:20 / 6:20 / 8:20
② A SOUND OF THUNDER 12:50 / 3:25 / 6:00 / 8:35	⑤ THE BROS. GRIMM 12:35 / 3:05 / 5:35 / 8:05
③ CINDERELLA MAN 12 05 R3 / 2 15 / 5 05 / 7 55	DOLBY DIGITAL DTS SDDS

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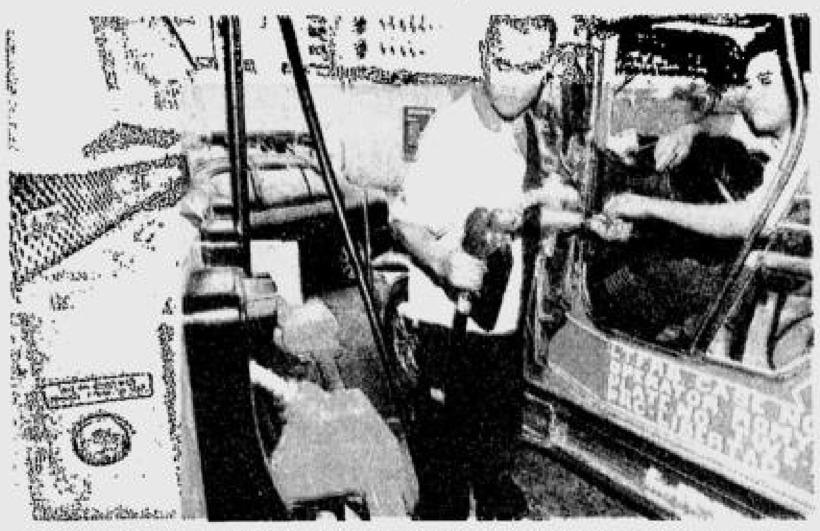
Foreign investments trebled in 1st half

LPG use in transport gets push

By Abigail L. Ho



THE AUTOGAS **program is seen to offer a welcome respite from high fuel prices to motorists.**

RESPONDING TO THE GOVERNMENT's thrust of promoting alternative transport fuels, Eastern Petroleum Corp. will be offering autogas, or liquefied petroleum gas for transport, before Christmas.

In an interview, Eastern Petroleum president Fernando Martinez told the INQUIRER that autogas would cost around P8 less a liter as compared with gasoline products at prevailing pump prices.

Premium unleaded gasoline now retails at between P34.56 and P34.92 a liter, while regular unleaded gasoline is being sold at between P33.10 and P33.88 a liter.

Martinez said Eastern Petroleum's autogas program would offer a welcome respite from high fuel prices to motorists, particularly those in the public transport sector.

They would, however, have to have their engines converted.

In an earlier interview, Energy Undersecretary Peter Anthony Abaya said it would cost roughly P50,000 to turn a regular taxi into an autogas-fed cab. Interested operators could avail themselves of financing from the state-owned Development Bank of the Philippines.

In terms of savings, Energy Secretary Raphael Lotilla said in an earlier presentation that using autogas would result in fuel cost savings of up to 20 percent, plus savings on oil change and tune-up.

He added that engine life would be prolonged by almost double the life of gasoline-fed engines.

Right now, industry leader Petron Corp. has four autogas dispensing pumps in Metro Manila and Cebu. Fellow refiner Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp. has two pumps in Cebu. CatGas is set to install one autogas-dispensing pump in Pasig before the end of the year.

Martinez said that according to Eastern Petroleum's initial estimates, it would have to establish around 500 autogas filling stations all over the country to service 300,000 vehicles. This would result in foreign exchange savings of $20 million.

"It will entail a tremendous distribution infrastructure to achieve a significant contribution to the goal of lowering the current $700-million monthly oil bill. As such, Eastern Petroleum is considering an ex-

LPG USE/ B4

But amount pales compared with inflows to Asian neighbors

By Doris C. Dumlao

FRESH FOREIGN DIRECT INvestments lured by the Philippines nearly tripled to $495 million in the first semester from $170 million a year ago, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas reported yesterday.

The increase came amid the political uncertainties in the second quarter over allegations that President Macapagal-Arroyo cheated in the 2004 elections and that her family benefited from illegal gambling payoffs.

These investments, monitored by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, represent money put in brick-and-mortar businesses that are usually capital- and labor-intensive such as those spent to build new factories or other enterprises.

Fresh capital during the period—bulk of which came from Hong Kong and Japan—went to manufacturing, real estate, financial and services, particularly business process outsourcing.

The BSP reported that net equity capital increased by 35.3 percent to $560 million as new placements increased by 16.4 percent while withdrawals shrunk by 27.5 percent.

Net profits reinvested in existing businesses remained on a positive level, indicating that foreign investors chose to retain or roll over some of their earnings in the local economy instead of repatriating these to their home countries.

The net reinvested earnings amounted to only $2 million or 96.8 percent lower than $62 million in the same semester last year.

"However, it is important to recognize that the 2005 reinvested earnings data include those of local banks only, and do not yet cover those of enterprises," the BSP said, noting that the recording of reinvested earnings for these companies would be made when their audited financial statements become available.

Other capital components of foreign di-

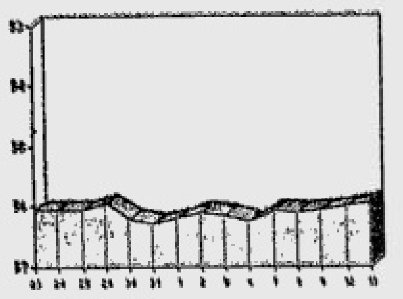
FOREIGN/ B4

WHAT'S INSIDE

PNOC plans to undertake 7 hydropower projects /B2
Cocktales: Revolt of the Hacienderos /B3
Bid to place pre-need firms under IC pushed /B16

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



PESO-DOLLAR RATE

P 55.93 = $1

As of 5 p.m., Sept. 13, 2005

¥ 110.50 = $1

As of 5 p.m., Sept. 13, 2005

GOLD: $448.20-448.70

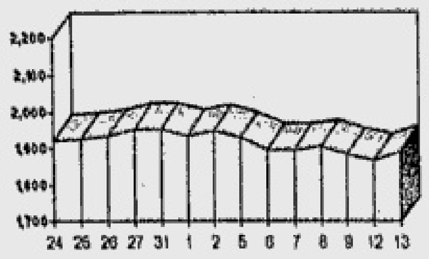
per ounce Hong Kong, Sept. 13, 2005

United States	Dollar	0.814067	1.000000	55.9990
Japan	Yen	0.007381	0.009067	0.5077
United Kingdom	Pound	1.480951	1.819200	101.8734
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.104885	0.128841	7.2150
Switzerland	Franc	0.647164	0.794976	44.5179
Canada	Dollar	0.686108	0.842815	47.1968
Singapore	Dollar	0.485112	0.595912	33.3705
Australia	Dollar	0.628138	0.771605	43.2091
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.159444	2.652661	148.5464
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.217079	0.266660	14.9327
Brunei	Dollar	0.483671	0.594142	33.2714
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000081	0.000099	0.0055
Thailand	Baht	0.019914	0.024462	1.3698
UAE	Dirham	0.221648	0.272272	15.2470
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.228400	68.7892
Argentina	Peso	0.279508	0.343348	19.2271
Brazil	Real	0.351421	0.431686	24.1740
Denmark	Kroner	0.134169	0.164813	9.2294
India	Rupee	0.018607	0.022857	1.2800
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.215990	0.265322	14.8578
Mexico	New Peso	0.076141	0.093532	5.2377
New Zealand	Dollar	0.573610	0.704622	39.4581
Norway	Kroner	0.128032	0.157275	8.8072
Pakistan	Rupee	0.013629	0.016742	0.9375
South Africa	Rand	0.127667	0.156826	8.7821
Korea	Won	0.000794	0.000975	0.0546
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.024940	0.030636	1.7156

STOCK MARKET

Shares close 1.49% higher

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B5)

SHARE PRICES closed 1.49 percent higher in a sharp technical rebound yesterday, recovering from two-month lows seen on persistent concerns over opposition attempts to oust President Macapagal-Arroyo, dealers said.

However, volumes were thin given the ongoing political issues and ahead of an expected monetary tightening by the central bank, they added.

The composite index rose 27.76 points to 1,894.67 after trading between 1,866.91 and 1,896.70. Turnover was a modest 395.8 million shares worth P747.7 million.

The broader all-shares index advanced 15.66 points to 1,159.77.

Gainers beat losers 42 to 22, with 38 stocks unchanged.

Dealers said the sustainability of yesterday's rise was questionable given fears over the domestic political environment while President Arroyo is in New York this week to attend United Nations meetings.

The Armed Forces went on full alert Monday amid rumors of destabilization attempts while Ms Arroyo is away. Opponents of the President have vowed to hold mass protests in a bid to force her from office after they failed to impeach her over accusations she cheated in last year's presidential elections.

"This is just a technical rebound. There's no accompanying volume," said Astro del Castillo of First Grade Holdings.

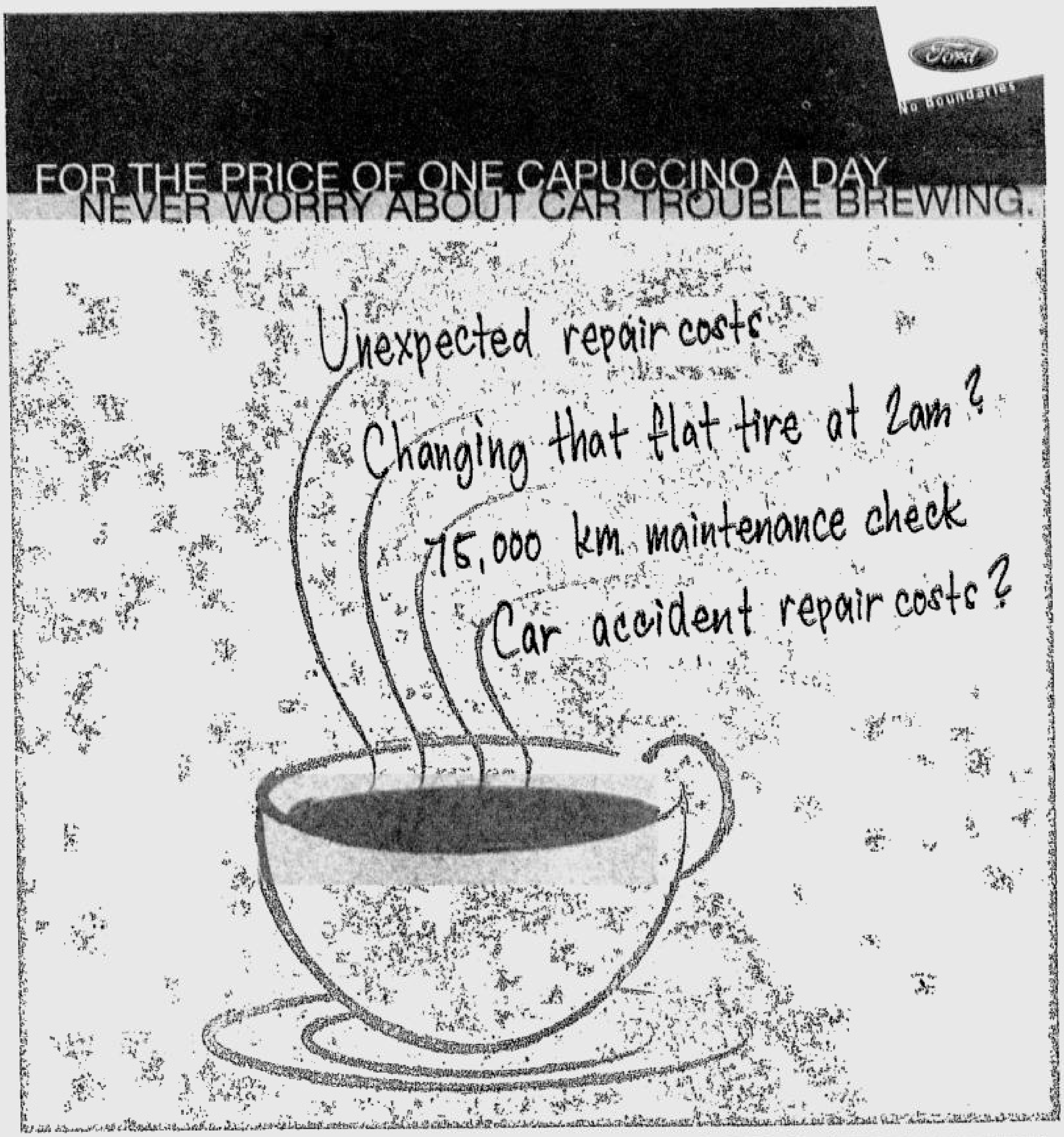
He said there were no strong fresh leads and that the same old political worries were still hanging over sentiment.

"Investors are still wary of the current political situation after the opposition has not given up on its objective to remove President Arroyo from office," BPI Securities said in a note to clients.

Philippine Long Distance Telephone lost P10 to P1,560.

Ayala Corp. rose P12.50 to P285. Units Ayala Land advanced 20 centavos to P7.60, Globe Telecom added P25 to P720 and Manila Water rose 10 centavos to P6.10.

AFP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PNOC plans to undertake 7 hydropower projects

By Abigail L. Ho

AS THE COUNTRY VEERS AWAY from the use of oil in power generation, Philippine National Oil Co. is looking at developing seven different hydropower sites with a total power generation capacity of 118.2 megawatts (MW).

Among the sites that are being evaluated are Timbahan in Madalag, Aklan with a potential of 23 MW; Catuiran in Calapan, Oriental Mindoro with 18 MW; Sicopong in Sta. Catalina, Negros Oriental with 17.8 MW; Villasiga in Bugasong, Antique with 25 MW; Langogan and Babuyan in Puerto Princesa, Palawan with 5.6 MW and 6.8 MW, respectively; and Pasil in Kalinga, Mt. Province with 22 MW.

PNOC president Eduardo Mañalac said the seven sites were now either undergoing preliminary evaluation or were being considered for feasibility studies.

The Catuiran site is now undergoing financial and economic evaluation. PNOC is also exploring the possibility of getting a private sector partner for the development of the site.

PNOC recently secured preliminary grant financing approval from the Spanish Ministry of Industry, Trade and Commerce for the conduct of a project feasibility study on the Langogan and Babuyan sites.

The state firm is also working on getting a grant financing from the Japan External Trade Organization for a project feasibility study on the Pasil site.

While the feasibility study on the Sicopong site has already been completed, Mañalac said the results of the joint technical review of PNOC and the Department of Energy had been provided to proponent WestJEC "for clarification and appropriate action."

A new project feasibility study is currently being conducted for the Villasiga site.

For the Timbahan site, Mañalac said certain issues still had to be ironed out between the DOE and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources' Committee on Energy Projects under Nipas Areas (Cepna).

Gov't bids out M-Gas property

By Michelle V. Remo

THE GOVERNMENT WILL AUCTION OFF today two pieces of property of Manila Gas Corp. worth P775 million , in a bid to boost its privatization and revenue-generation efforts.

Finance Undersecretary Gabriel "Jay" Singson Jr., who is in charge of the government's privatization program, said today's auction would follow the due diligence conducted by bidding participants.

He declined to identify the parties participating in the bidding but said they were engaged in real estate business and that they intended to use the two pieces of land for property development projects.

Manila Gas Corp. is one of the firms established by state-run National Development Co. (NDC), the government's investment arm. Manila Gas, which ceased operations in 2002, was engaged in the distribution of liquefied petroleum gas. It is now concentrating on selling its assets.

To be sold today are two lots in Paco, Manila. One has a total size of 12,271 square meters and is worth P138.66 million, while the other has a total size of 39,995 sq. m. and will be sold for at least P637.26 million.

This means the government could raise about P775.92 million from the auction. Singson said half, or P387.96 million, of the proceeds of the sale would be retained as income by the NDC. The amount will be used to fund various infrastructure projects. The other half will go to the government's general funds, he said.

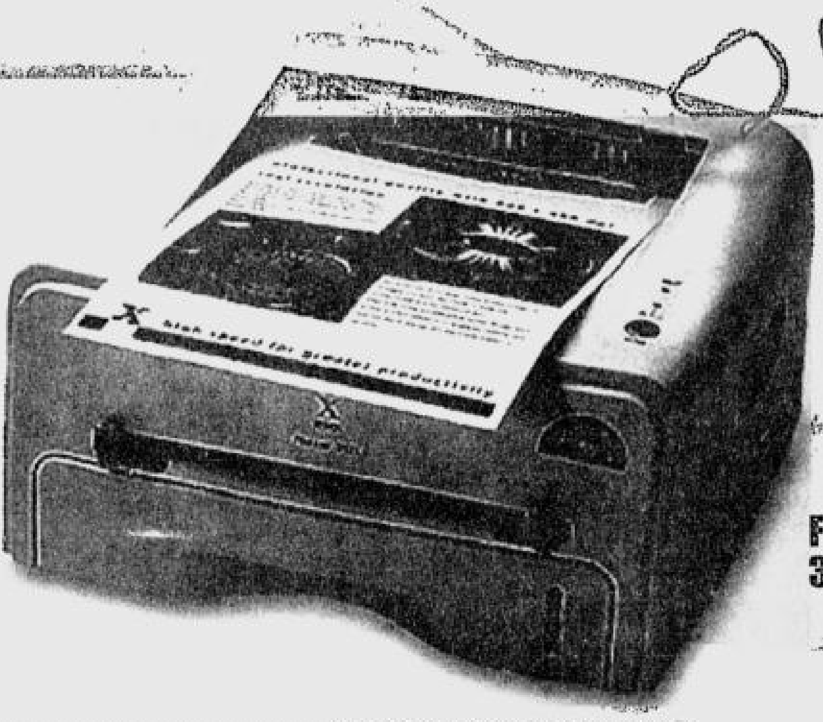
NDC has been tasked by the national government to engage in various privatization initiatives to fund infrastructure projects. The government is embarking on revenue-raising initiatives to raise funds for infrastructure development.

The Department of Finance has identified privatization as one of the means of generating revenues for these projects.

"The overall strategy is to shrink the government corporate sector, and get out of businesses where the private sector is willing to invest in," Singson said in a press briefing.

Aside from the Manila Gas property, other state assets up for privatization this year or next include television stations RPN Channel 9 and IBC Channel 13, Al Amanah Bank, Philippine Post, and shares in San Miguel Corp.

Recently, the government sold bulk of its stake in the Philippine National Bank to co-owner Lucio Tan Group, which now holds majority share of the country's sixth largest bank.



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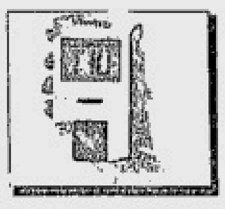

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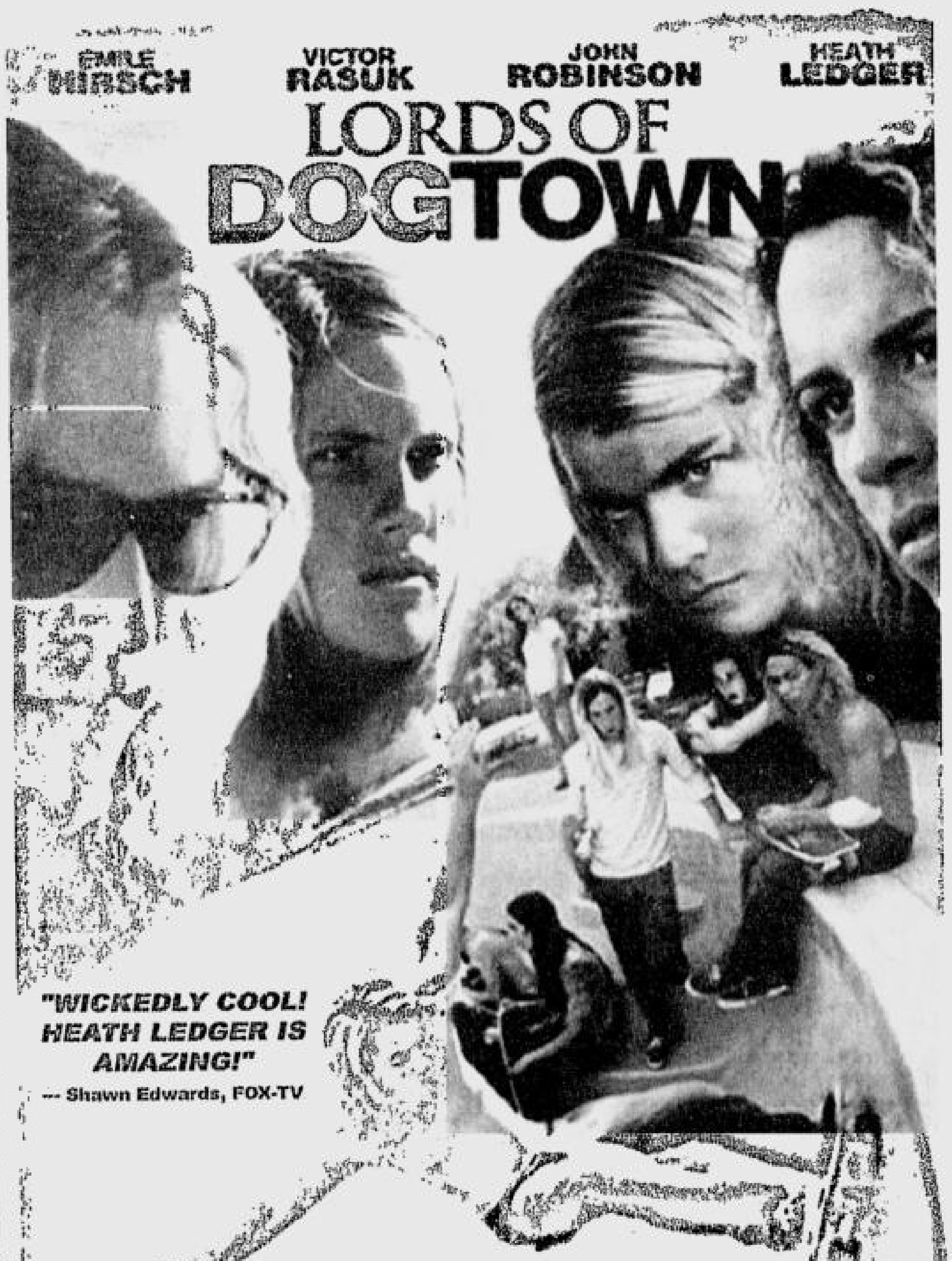
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Revolt of the Hacienderos

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

IT REALLY LOOKED LIKE THE country's most famous *haciendera*, Corazon Cojuangco-Aquino, had some prior arrangement not only with the Hyatt 10 but even her fellow landlords when she went on national TV to ask Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo to leave Malacañang.

Cocktales has confirmed that the July 8 Makati Business Club resolution calling for the GMA resignation was issued not only by MBC chair Ricardo Romulo and executive director Guillermo Luz—who are both unfairly getting all the flak—but was also approved by the board of trustees, including the Makati-Fort landlord, Jaime Zobel de Ayala, Alfonso Yuchengco III (the son, not the taipan) and Raul Concepcion of Concepcion Industries (the twin brother of the Namfrel chair.)

In addition, former Finance Secretary Roberto de Ocampo, SSS president Corazon dela Paz, Felipe Alfonso, Cesar Buenaventura and former Central Bank Governor Jose Cuisia also signed the resolution during what apparently was a specially convened meeting to support the Hyatt 10 press conference.

According to the minutes, the MBC board called for the meeting "upon the request of Juan Santos," who had just announced his resignation as trade and industry secretary that morning at the Hyatt hotel.

Two other MBC trustees, PLDT chair Manuel V. Pangilinan and economist Bernardo Villegas, were absent during that July 8 MBC board meeting at the Rizal room of the Manila Peninsula hotel.

"In the ensuing discussions, it was observed that while reforms had been undertaken, the President's (referring to GMA) ability to govern in the future was in question given the situation she was in under a cloud of suspicion and doubt, with leadership and credibility (also) in question," according to the minutes of that meeting.

The MBC meeting ended at 11:30 a.m., after which its allied organizations, the Financial Executives Institute of the Philippines and the Management Association of the Philippines, subsequently issued similar resign-GMA resolutions.

That afternoon, President Aquino went live on a pre-arranged, televised press conference.

The Hyatt 10 later confided to their sympathizers in media that they had informed Aquino of their impending resignation, but not former President Ramos, who rushed to Malacañang the following day to announce his support for the beleaguered President.

The Hyatt 10 chose the Hyatt hotel on Roxas Boulevard (not to be confused with the new Hyatt hotel and casino at the corner of Pedro Gil and Roxas Boulevard) to hold the press conference not only because of its cheaper rates, but also because it is next door to the San Juan de Dios Hospital, the religious-run hospital where apparently a number of the Hyatt 10 spent the previous night.

Bizarre Beijing bureaucrats

IN LATE 2000, Cocktales declined two invitations from the Beijing government coursed through Teresita Ang-See to visit the People's Republic of China, because of the ongoing Erap political crisis.

(Guess who among the civil society-types dropped their agitprop work just to travel and join the junket?)

Late last year, Cebu Pacific had to cancel a familiarization tour to the mainland for Philippine journalists, Cocktales one of them, be-

COCKTALES/B5

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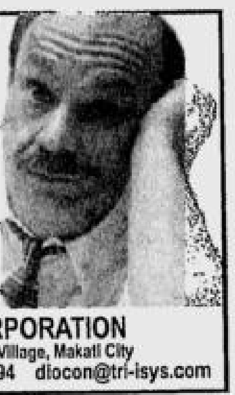

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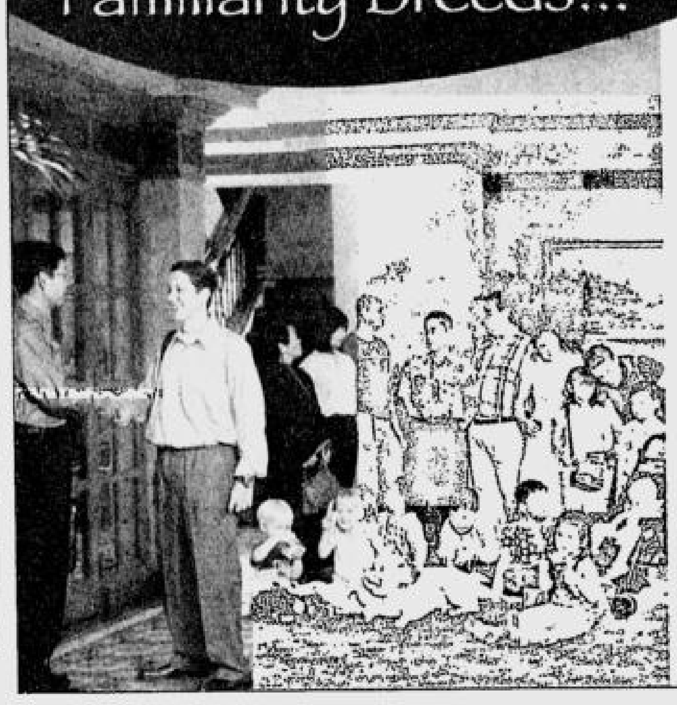

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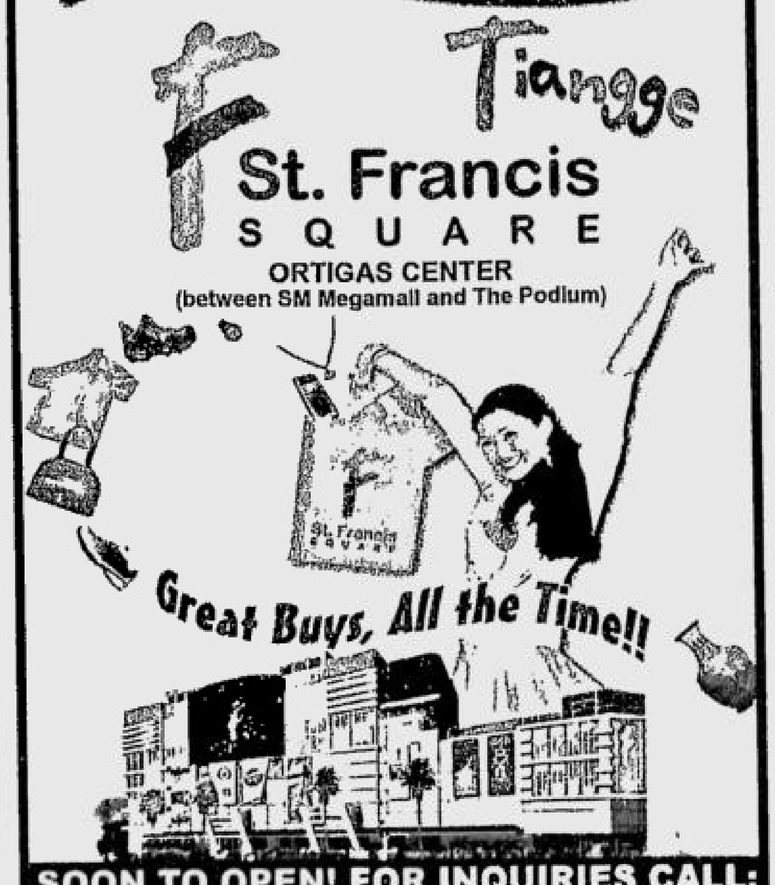
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In celebration of our one millionth card, we're giving you the chance to have Citibank pay for your utility bill for a whole year! Each new utility bill that you enroll in Citibank One Bill through any Citibank Credit Card from August 8 to October 31, 2005 gives you one (1) raffle entry in the Citibank One Bill raffle promo. If you win, you'll never have to worry about that bill for an entire year!

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- Each new approved utility account enrollment in Citibank One Bill entitles you to one (1) raffle entry.
- Entries will be awarded on a per utility account basis. 1 new approved utility account enrollment = 1 raffle entry.
- Winning entry will be paid for by Citibank up to a maximum amount of PhP 10,000/month for 12 consecutive months. See flyers for details.

One million thanks to you!

citibank

LPG use in transport . . .

From page B1

tensive franchising program for future expansion," he said.

Apart from having dispensing pumps in actual gasoline service stations, taxi garages can also have their own autogas-dispensing pumps if they have a significant enough number of vehicles in their fleets.

In Cebu, for example, where 329 autogas taxis are plying the streets, Emerson Taxi has 47 autogas taxis in operation and a Shell dispensing station with a 2,000 US gallons water capacity LPG tank. Jays Express Taxi has 43 autogas taxis and a Shell dispensing pump of the same capacity. RP Corominas Taxi and Corominas Taxi have a combined total of 200 autogas cabs and Shell and Petron dispensing pumps.

Shell currently requires a minimum of 40 taxis for the installation of a dispensing pump in the taxi terminal or garage.

In Metro Manila, according to Department of Energy records, there are now 108 autogas taxis plying the streets. Many of them have autogas dispensing pumps in their terminals.

Foreign investments trebled. . .

From page B1

rect investments indicated outflows amounting to $67 million during the period, although this represented a 78.2 percent improvement over the larger outflows of $306 million seen in the same semester last year.

But while investments are trickling back to the country, these still represented a small slice of the huge funds flowing to developing Asia, which rose from a post-currency crisis and post-dotcom bubble low of $49 billion in 2002 to more than $70 billion in 2004.

Last year, for instance, mainland China gobbled up the biggest foreign investment flows amounting to about $61 billion, based on the estimates of the Asian Development Bank. In Southeast Asia, Indonesia generated $1 billion while $2 billion went to Malaysia, $5 billion to Singapore, $656 million to Thailand and $1.7 billion to Vietnam.

The flows during the first semester still paled in comparison to nearly $2 billion in net portfolio investments or "hot money" which came in through the banking system. This means there is still greater appetite among foreign investors to invest in liquid Philippine financial instruments like stocks and government securities.

Acer recommends Microsoft® Windows® XP Professional.

intel inside celeron® M

Real Wireless Freedom at 0% Interest!

Acer offers its latest products at 0% interest in 12 or 6 monthly installment schemes using your BPI Credit Card.

NOTEBOOKS

SRP: 39,900
(P6,650/mo. x 6mo.)

TravelMate 2413NLCi
- Intel® Celeron® M Processor 370 (1.5GHz, 2MB L2 Cache, 400MHz FSB)
- Linpus Linux Operating System
- Intel 910GML Chipset
- Integrated Wireless LAN (802.11 b/g)
- 256MB DDR2 533 RAM/40GB HDD
- 15" XGA TFT LCD
- Integrated DVD/CDRW Combo Drive
- Built-in 10/100Mbps LAN/56K Modem

TravelMate 3002WTCi
- Microsoft® Windows® XP Home
- Intel® Centrino™ Mobile Technology Intel® Pentium® M Processor 740B (1.73GHz, 2MB L2 Cache, 533MHz FSB) Intel® 915GM Express Chipset Intel® PROWireless 2200 (802.11b/g)
- 512MB DDR 2 RAM/60GB HDD
- 12.1" WXGA Widescreen Color Display with Acer CrystalBrite Technology
- External DVD/CDRW Combo Drive
- Built-in 10/100/1000 Gigabit LAN/56k modem
- Up to 6.5 hours with free 2nd Battery
- 4-in-1 Card Reader / Integrated Bluetooth

FREE! iPod Shuffle Cash buyers

SRP: 99,900
(P8,325/mo. x 12mo.)

TravelMate 2319NLCi

NEW!
- Intel® Pentium® M Processor 725 (1.6GHz, 2MB L2Cache, 400MHz FSB)
- Linpus Linux Operating System
- Integrated Ambit Wireless LAN (802.11 b/g)
- 256MB DDR RAM/40GB HDD
- 15" XGA TFT LCD
- Integrated DVD/CDRW Combo Drive
- Built-in 10/100Mbps LAN/56K Modem
- Acer SignalUp Technology
- Acer eManager Software* (eSettings, ePresentation, ePower Mgmt, eRecovery)

SRP: 49,900
(P8,316.67/mo. x 6mo.)

TravelMate 2308LCi
- Microsoft® Windows® XP Home Edition
- Intel® Pentium® M Processor 715 (1.5GHz, 2MB L2 Cache, 400 MHZ FSB)
- 256 MB DDR RAM
- 15.0" XGA TFT LCD
- 40 GB HDD
- Integrated CD-RW/DVD Combo Drive
- Built-in 10/100 Mbps LAN
- Built-in 56K Modem
- Built-in 54 Mbps Wireless LAN (802.11b/g)
- Ergonomic Keypad
- Acer USB Scroll Mouse

SRP: 55,900
(P9,316.67/mo. x 6mo.)

TravelMate 4102WLCi
- Microsoft® Windows® XP Home
- Intel® Centrino™ Mobile Technology Intel® Pentium® M Processor 740 (1.73GHz, 2MB L2 Cache, 533MHz FSB) Intel® 915GM Express Chipset Intel® PROWireless 2200 (802.11b/g)
- 256MB DDR RAM/60GB HDD
- 15.4" WXGA TFT LCD (Widescreen)
- Integrated DVD/CDRW Combo Drive
- Built-in 10/100Mbps LAN/56k modem

FREE! P5,000 Nike GC for cash purchase

FREE! MEMORY UPGRADE TO 512MB

SRP: 77,500
(P6,458.33/mo. x 12mo.)

*Feature available if upgraded to Windows® XP Operating System
All Acer Notebook models come with: FREE Acer USB Optical Mouse and Acer Targus Bag
1 Year International Traveler's Warranty, Limited Local Warranty (on all TravelMate notebooks)

PROJECTOR

PD116P
- DLP Projection System
- SVGA (800x600)
- SXGA (1280x1024)
- Contrast Ratio: 2000:1
- 2100 Lumens
- Weight: 2.4kg

FREE! ViewTech Tripod Screen

PD116P
SRP: 69,900
(P5,825/mo x 12mo.)

- All Acer LCD Monitors have 3 years warranty on parts and labor.
- All Acer Projectors have 2 years warranty on parts and labor. 90 days for Lamp or 500 hours (which ever comes first).

LCD MONITORS

AL1511/AL1512
- 15" Viewable Area
- 1024x768 maximum resolution
- Brightness: 250 cd/m2
- Contrast Ratio: 350:1
- Weight: 3.0 kg.
- Silver/Black

With Speaker:
SRP: 12,999
(P1,083.25/mo x 12mo.)

Without Speaker: (AL1511 White)
SRP: 12,699
(P1,058.25/mo x 12mo.)

AL1714
- 17" Viewable Area
- 1280x1024 maximum resolution
- Brightness: 370 cd/m2
- Contrast Ratio: 350:1
- Weight: 3.5 kg.
- Black

With Speaker:
SRP: 15,800
(P1,316.66/mo x 12mo.)

Without Speaker:
SRP: 15,500
(P1,291.66/mo x 12mo.)

Get a FREE! Acer Wristwatch*!
*Available in black and orange colors
for the buyers of Acer LCD Monitors. Only at BPI Installment Madness at Glorietta (Sept. 7-25, 2005)

DESKTOPS

Aspire SA60
- Linpus Linux
- Intel® Celeron® D Processor 330 (2.66 GHz, 256KB L2 Cache, 533MHz FSB
- 256MB DDR RAM/80 GB IDE HDD
- Integrated VGA Shared Memory up to 128MB
- Integrated 56kbps Modem
- Integrated CD-Rom Drive
- 3.5" 1.44 MB FDD
- Acer 15" CRT Monitor
- PS/2 Keyboard & Scroll Wheel Mouse

SRP: 22,500
(P1,875/mo. x 12mo.)

All Acer Desktops have 1 year warranty on parts and labor.

Aspire E500
- Microsoft® Windows® XP Home
- Intel® Pentium® 4 Processor 516 (2.93GHz, 1MB L2 Cache 533MHz FSB)
- 256 MB DDR2 RAM/80GB SATA HDD
- Integrated VGA Shared Memory up to 128MB
- ATI Radeon Xpress 200 Chipset
- Integrated 7-in-1 Card Reader
- Integrated GigaBit Ethernet LAN/56kbps Modem
- Acer 17" CRT Monitor
- USB Keyboard & Optical Mouse
- Acer Speakers

FREE! Epson USB C45 Printer

DUAL CORE READY

- With 16x Super Multi-DVD Writer:
  SRP: 48,900 (P4,075/mo x 12mo.)
- With DVD-CDROM Combo Drive:
  SRP: 45,825 (P3,075/mo x 12mo.)

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 5259 Series of 2005

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Acer products now available at much more affordable rates!

Get greater value for your money and real wireless freedom from your laptop, desktop, projector or LCD monitor

Still on the lookout for the best computer gadgetry that could best fit your mobile lifestyle but a little short on cash? Acer, one of the world's leading computer brands, introduces a special limited promo offer called "Real Wireless Freedom at 0% Interest" that will allow you to choose from a wide array of notebooks, projectors, LCD monitors and desktops offering power-packed features and greater wireless freedom.

Much like other Acer notebook models introduced earlier in the market, the latest batch of Acer TravelMate notebooks offer seamless connectivity with its wireless LAN (802.11b/g) and a host of other superb features that cater to the most discriminating users.

Thus, Acer's latest line of notebooks composed of the new TravelMate 2413NLCi, TravelMate 2319NLCi, TravelMate 2308LCi, TravelMate 4102WLCi, TravelMate 3002WTCi, TravelMate C312XMi and the sleek and popular Ferrari 4005WLMi has now been made more affordable at 0% interest in 12 or 6 monthly installments, using any BPI Credit Cards.

Now available at P6,650 for 6 months, the TravelMate 2413NLCi (SRP P39,900) also comes with a powerful Intel Celeron M 370 processor at 1.5 GHz,1MB L2 Cache, 400MHz FSB, and runs on a more flexible Linpus Linux Operating System. The TravelMate 2319NLCi, on the other hand, is slightly higher at SRP P49,900 (P8,316.66 x 6 months), carries almost the same features as the TravelMate 2313NLCi series, but utilizes a much faster Intel Pentium M 725 processor at 1.6 GH GHz,1MB L2 Cache, 400MHz FSB.

For those in need of a more powerful notebook, the new TravelMate 2308LCi operates using Intel Pentium M 715 processor at 1.5 GHz,1MB L2 Cache, 400MHz FSB and built-in 54 Mbps Wireless LAN (802.11 b/g) for faster processing power. Available at P55,900 SRP (P9,316.67 x 6 months), it also features an ergonomically-designed key pad and an Acer USB scroll mouse that runs well on Microsoft Windows XP Home edition.

Although priced much higher ,both the TravelMate 4102WLCi (P77,500 or P6,458.33 x12 months SRP) and TravelMate 3002WTCi (P99,900 or P8,325.00x12 months SRP) guarantee high- speed processing power with the latest Intel® Centrino™ Mobile Technology at Intel® Pentium® M 1.73 GHz, 2MB L2 Cache, 533 MHZ FSB processing power. Combined with an Intel® 915GM Express Chipset and Intel PRO Wireless 2200 (802.11 b/g). Both notebook models offer the most value-packed computing performance. Cash buyers also get added freebies like an iPod shuffle for the TravelMate 3002WTCi, and P5,000 worth of Nike Gift cheques plus free memory upgrade of up to 512MB for the TravelMate 4102WLCi.

For those who can't get enough of Acer's famed tablet PCs, TravelMate C312XMi (SRP: P125,000 or P 10,416.67/mo. x 12 months) offers a lot more features than its predecessor. Powered by the latest Intel® Centrino™ mobile technology through an Intel® Pentium® M Processor 740 (1.73Ghz,2MB L2,533MHz FSB), TravelMate C312XMi offers full video memory, with 512MB DDR2 RAM and 80GB Hard Disk Drive with Disk Anti-Shock Protection (DASP), Integrated Super Multi DVD Drive Double Layer Technology, 4-in-1 Card Reader, integrated bluetooth and a Microsoft Experience Pack for Tablet PC for a more productive and enjoyable usage.

Likewise, here's your chance to finally bring home the sleek and innovative Ferrari 4005WLMi! Available at SRP P138,000 (P11,500/mo. x 12 months), the world's first notebook that utilizes carbon-fiber casing, boasts of a wide array of features that every techie would be dreaming of owning one. For every purchase of Ferrari 4005WLMi comes with a FREE 125ml Ferrari Red Perfume. Cash buyers will get an additional P5,000 worth of Nike Gift Cheque as an added bonus.

Meanwhile, for those who are on the lookout for an affordable, yet ultra-functional desktops, Acer offers its latest Acer Aspire SA60 (only P22,500 or P1,875/mo. x 12 months, SRP) and Aspire E500, both of which offer 256MB DDR2 RAM/80GB HDD, Integrated VGA Shared Memory up to 128 MB, and Integrated 56kbps modem. The Aspire SA60 runs on Intel® Celeron® D 330 processor (2.66 GHZ, 256KB L2 Cache, 533 MHZ FSB) and comes with an Integrated CD-ROM drive and 15" CRT monitor. In contrast, the more powerful Aspire E500 runs on Intel® Pentium® 4 Processor 516 (2.93 GHZ, 1MB L2 Cache 533 MHZ FSB), comes with 17" CRT monitor with a FREE Epson C45 USB Printer. Buyers of this desktop model can choose between the following options: for only P48,900 SRP (P4,075/mo. x 12 months), one can get an Aspire E500 with 16x SuperMulti DVD Writer or for only P45,900 SRP (P3,825/mo. x 12 months), one can have an Aspire E500 with DVD-CDRom Combo Drive.

Those who enjoy watching movies and various gaming application right inside their homes will surely love Acer's new PD116P projector (SRP: P69,900 or P5,825/mo. x 12 months), which features a Contrast Ratio of up to 2000:1, SVGA (800x600) or SXGA (1280x1024) viewing pleasure and up to 2100 Lumens brightness. What's more, you also get to bring home a FREE ViewTech Tripod Screen with every purchase.

Finally, Acer's LCD monitors AL1511/1512 and AL1714 are now being sold at a suggested retail price ranging from P12,999 (P1,083 x 12 months) to P15,800 (P1,316.66 x 12 months). Without the speakers, any of these monitors may be had at P12,699 (P1,058 x 12 months) and P15,500 (P1,291.66 x 12 months). Acer's AL1751 (SRP P18,500 or P1,541.66/mo. X 12 months) and AL1913 (SRP P 25,900 or P2,158.33/mo. x 12 months) are also available. First 200 buyers of any Acer LCD monitor models from any participating Acer resellers within the BPI Installment Madness at the Glorietta from September 7 to 25, 2005, gets a FREE Acer Wristwatch.

Call the Acer Hotline at 815-3388 or visit www.acer.com.ph/promo, for more details. Visit the following Acer dealer booths at Glorietta: Accent Micro, Complink, Electroworld, Silicon Valley, TCA and Villman Computer Systems. Promo runs up to Sept. 25, 2005 only. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 5259 series of 2005

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of September 13, 2005

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.2	1,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	29	30	29	30	606,600
Bank of the Phil. Islands	51	51.5	51	51	1,480,400
China Banking Corp.	840	840	820	820	290
Citystate Savings Bank	17.5	17.5	17.5	17.5	600
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	47.5	49.5	47.5	49.5	83,900
International Exch. Bank	18.75	18.75	18.75	18.75	5,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	26.5	27.5	26.5	26.5	480,300
Philippine National Bank	35	35	34.5	34.5	11,000
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	14.75	14.75	14.75	14.75	500
Security Bank Corp.	30	30	30	30	10,800
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
First Metro Invest. Corp.	250	250	240	240	110
Manulife Financial Corp.	2810	2810	2810	2810	50
Phil. Stock Exchange Inc.	140	140	140	140	200
Sun Life Financial Inc.	2090	2090	2090	2090	10
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	13.25	13.25	13.25	13.25	31,300
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.97	0.98	0.97	0.98	410,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	700	725	695	720	42,860
Ipeople Inc.	2.95	3.05	2.95	3	82,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.05	0.0525	0.049	0.0525	5,700,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	2.85	2.95	2.85	2.95	2,001,000
Transpacific Broadcast	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	20,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1560	1570	1560	1560	35,620
Philweb Corp.	0.016	0.016	0.016	0.016	2,200,000
POWER, ENERGY & OTHER UTILITIES					
Manila Electric Co. A	13.5	13.75	13.5	13.75	36,700
Manila Electric Co. B	21	22	21	22	231,100
Manila Water Co. Inc.	6	6.1	6	6.1	12,144,000
Petron Corp.	3.1	3.2	3.1	3.15	2,995,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.74	1.74	1.74	1.74	10,000
Aboitiz Trans. Sys. Corp.	1.68	1.68	1.68	1.68	47,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	8.2	8.2	8.2	8.2	103,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.64	0.64	0.64	0.64	230,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Holcim Philippines Inc.	3	3.1	3	3.1	162,000
Republic Cement Corp.	0.64	0.64	0.64	0.64	20,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3.4	3.45	3.4	3.45	102,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	34	34.5	34	34.5	93,700
RFM Corp.	0.71	0.71	0.71	0.71	10,000
San Miguel Corp. A	65	65	64.5	65	172,700
San Miguel Corp. B	92.5	94	92.5	94	340,900
Universal Robina Corp.	16.25	16.25	16	16	35,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	400,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.007	0.0075	0.007	0.0075	14,000,000
Ayala Corp.	280	285	280	285	186,360
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	5	5	5	5	360,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.024	0.024	0.024	0.024	6,400,000
A. Soriano Corp.	2.06	2.08	2.04	2.08	355,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	3,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	150,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	20,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1	1.04	1	1.04	5,230,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	510,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.245	0.245	0.24	0.24	830,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	3	3	3	3	10,000
Fil-Hispano Holdings Corp.	5.2	5.3	5.2	5.2	2,904,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	40.5	42	40	42	1,650,000
Ionics Inc.	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	1,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	3.05	3.35	3.05	3.3	152,000
Keppel Holdings	0.71	0.71	0.71	0.71	10,000
Macroasia Corp.	1.82	1.82	1.8	1.8	100,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. B	0.018	0.018	0.018	0.018	200,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.3	1.32	1.3	1.32	1,965,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	5,640,000
Prime Media Holdings Inc.	1	1	1	1	30,000
SM Investments Corp.	203	212	203	211	213,660
Tanduay Holdings Inc.	4.2	4.2	4.05	4.05	134,000
Unioil Res. & Holdings Co	0.125	0.18	0.125	0.18	3,020,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	1,510,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Corro-Coat Inc.	1.12	1.12	1.12	1.12	10,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.0825	0.0825	0.0825	0.0825	100,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.94	0.94	0.92	0.92	790,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	.0.73	0.73	0.73	0.73	50,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	1.56	1.58	1.54	1.58	1,561,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (PDR)	13.5	13.5	13.25	13.25	40,300
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	7.4	7.6	7.3	7.6	12,083,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.91	0.93	0.91	0.93	130,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.225	0.24	0.225	0.24	120,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.35	0.36	0.35	0.35	2,670,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.3	1.36	1.3	1.36	3,035,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.2	0.205	0.195	0.205	180,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.43	0.44	0.43	0.44	250,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	4.55	4.65	4.55	4.65	3,994,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.9	7.1	6.9	7.1	7,766,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	1	1	0.95	0.97	1,690,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. B	1	1	0.97	0.98	940,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	60,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	6.2	6.2	6.1	6.2	235,000
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	1.84	1.84	1.84	1.84	35,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.31	0.31	0.28	0.29	36,520,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.35	0.35	0.33	0.34	8,590,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.017	0.017	0.017	0.017	50,000,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.024	0.024	0.024	0.024	51,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	14,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.83	0.83	0.81	0.81	1,210,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	1	1	1	1	860,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	28.5	28.5	28.5	28.5	449,200
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.34	0.34	0.3	0.3	390,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	7,600,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.008	0.008	0.008	0.008	50,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.44	0.44	0.43	0.43	120,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	120,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.135	0.135	0.135	0.135	100,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	100,000

PLDT gets nod to drop IDD rates

THE PHILIPPINE Long Distance Telephone Co. has received the go-ahead of the National Telecommunications Commission to bring down its overseas call rate to as low as 5 US cents a minute, just like its fierce rival Globe Telecom Inc.

PLDT said that on Sept. 15, it would offer cheap overseas calls to subscribers of its DSL (Digital Subscribed Line), its high-speed Internet brand.

The standard IDD rate is 40 US cents per minute. Globe had cut its overseas call rate to 20 US cents a minute starting the fifth minute in its ongoing promo. Sun Cellular is offering a similar 20-cent-per-minute deal.

Butch Jimenez, head of PLDT's retail, said the rates would be 62 to 75 percent cheaper against the 40-cent standard rate.

To offset any negative impact on its overseas revenue, Jimenez said PLDT would aggressively pursue DSL connection and upgrades.

Clarissa S. Batino

Cocktales

From page B3

cause of the bizarre insistence of the Beijing embassy for the journalists to submit written undertakings not to write about China.

Imagine, the foreign press being invited to visit China's tourist attractions, only to be told they are prohibited from reporting about them.

Apparently the prohibition still stands. Journalists who wish to visit China as tourists are still being required to submit letters pledging that they will not write about their trips. Not even letters to the editor and memoirs.

Money-go-round

- BARRING last-minute hitches, BBDO president Susan Dimacali is all set to join the headhunting ABS-CBN as marketing chief. In the meantime, Dimacali has agreed to stay on with the award-winning ad agency until year's end, until her replacement, an expatriate, has settled in.

- The New Manila Polo Club president, Ray Dempsey, has ordered an audit of the past administration's expenditures and contracts, and has supposedly unearthed some preliminary, but quite revealing discoveries.

Heard through the grapevine

PROMINENT La Salle graduates led by GMA entrepreneurship adviser Jose "Joey" Concepcion III are meeting with DLSU president Brother Armin Luistro to express their displeasure over Luistro's inducing the faculty and students into joining mass actions with the Left and Marcos-Erap forces.

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PEOPLE at WORK

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Pediatric dentist gives children a reason to smile

By Candy G. Villanueva
Contributor

ALL ABOUT WORK

"OK *LANG YAN MASIRA* DOC, *MApapalitan pa naman yan 'di ba* (It's okay if it decays, Doc, it will be replaced anyway, right)?" This is the last question that Doctor Pam Abesamis-Villanueva would like to hear from her patients' parents. Unfortunately, this is also the sort of query that she often hears. As pediatric dentist, she often finds toddlers in her dental chair with a mouthful of rotten teeth. This is largely due to common misconceptions of parents. Abesamis-Villanueva, also an associate dentist of the Abesamis Dental Clinic, aims to educate parents on the importance of early and regular dental care for children as young as six months.

Oral dental care is necessary for every individual. For our tooth fillings, extractions and even veneers, we have our general practitioners. But just like us, children need special dental attention too. Not all dentists are trained on behavioral management and equipped to handle three-year-olds needing extraction. Only pediatric dentists like Pam Abesamis-Villanueva are specially trained to treat children's teeth.

Specially for children

As a pediatric dentist, Abesamis-Villanueva treats children from ages six months to 12 years old. In addition, she handles children with special dental or oral needs. "It is also my responsibility to educate parents with the proper way of brushing their children's teeth and give diet counseling to keep children's teeth and gums as healthy as possible," says the dentist.

Although countless children have gotten away with happy smiles without the care of pediatric dentists, this specialization is indispensable especially for extreme cases. This is largely because pediatric dentists are trained on behavioral management. "Behavioral management is difficult simply because most children in this age group are not able to follow and understand instructions given to them. As a general practitioner then, I didn't know what to do because I wasn't equipped for the job," explains Abesamis-Villanueva.

True enough, making a petrified three-year-old with a throbbing molar open his mouth may not be as easy as asking an adult to say "ah." The pediatric dentist says most general practitioners are hands off when it comes to toddlers.

Controlling challenges

Abesamis-Villanueva confesses that sometimes, the conditions are so extreme that pediatric dentists like her have to resort to physical restraint. When a little child is bawling and uncontrollable out of fear and pain, a papoose board needs to be used. A papoose board is a pediatric wrap that is used to keep the child safe in the dental chair. This is necessary especially when the child cannot sit still while the dentist is holding a sharp instrument.

ABESAMIS with one of her patients. RAYMUND SOBERANO/CONTRIBUTOR

Other times, Abesamis-Villanueva uses a mouth-gag, which she sometimes calls the hotdog, to keep the child's mouth open until the end of the treatment. For special treatment, Abesamis-Villanueva is trained to use sedation or general anesthesia. All these special treatments are administered with a written consent from the parents.

"The primary challenge of the job is how to make a child cooperate. With a cooperative child, you will be able to do the treatment properly," shares the pediatric dentist. She claims that the difficulty often comes when the child has a negative behavior or if he or she is a special child.

Unique treatment

With a cooperative child, pediatric dentistry could be quite a joy, admits the pediatric dentist. Standing out in her SpongeBob Square Pants scrub suit, Abesamis-Villanueva walks around with a big beautiful smile on her face mostly due to the children. "First of all, you can never be a very effective pediatric dentist if you don't love children. That's the key in this job. I love children."

According to the dentist, different kids call for different approaches. Whatever the method, she approaches it with patience and love. "The fulfilling part of this job is being able to transform a negative behavior to a positive one and eventually being able to do the treatment properly."

Often she starts by getting to know the child. She says it is important to know the child's background and behavior at home or at school before treatment. The actual treatment starts with "Tell-Show-and-Do" wherein she explains the treatment and tools in a storytelling manner. To keep the child entertained and relaxed, she even has special nicknames for her equipment. "Mr. Sipper" for the suction and "shower" for the drill makes the tools seem less threatening. For tooth decay, she sometimes tells a child that worms ate the tooth up and should be "sprayed" away from the tooth using the "shower."

Education and prevention

According to Abesamis-Villanueva, pediatric dentists normally charge higher dental fees due to the unique and specialized dental care they render to children. This is also because of the special equipment. Pediatric dental chairs for instance are quite pricey.

Unfortunately, the pediatric dentists are not as in demand in the country as compared abroad. "Pediatric dentistry practice is much more in demand abroad simply because of the standard of living and parent awareness. Here in our country, unless the area is not swollen or in pain, more often than not, parents do not bring their children to us," explains the dentist. Abesamis-Villanueva hopes to change all that.

Her main goal is to educate parents on the value of the primary dentition. She says it is important for children to start dental care as early as six months. Early prevention would naturally lead to decay resistance and a beautiful smile. The prevention phase includes fluoride treatment even before the child has learned to hold a toothbrush properly. It is also the job of pediatric dentists to educate the parents on proper diet. "Most parents are too concerned with what and how much food to give their children to the point of neglecting oral health. Proper education and proper care from your pediatric dentist will help maintain the overall health of children."

Positive outlook

To be able to treat kids effectively, Abesamis-Villanueva had to take up a specialized course. At the Pediatric Dentistry Division of the Philippine Children's Medical Center in QC, she learned the different types of behavioral management techniques like treatment under sedation and general anesthesia. Abesamis-Villanueva had to take a six-month leave from her practice in order to give way to the full-time program. She earned her dental medicine degree at the University of the Philippines.

Growing up in a family of dentists, Abesamis-Villanueva always knew she would be filling molars and extracting teeth for a living. But she never realized she would find fulfillment in treating kids. "I've always wanted to be around kids because I love children. But that was only when they are laughing and in a good mood. And that rarely happens in the dental environment."

When she had kids of her own, her outlook changed. "I learned to love the challenge of changing a negative mood or attitude to a positive one. I thought I could apply that in my practice so I decided to train in this field. Now that I am practicing as a pediatric dentist, I'm happy to say that it has not only improved my practice but also my overall outlook in life."

(*E-mail feedback to* candyvillanueva@pldtdsl.net)

Entrepreneur finds staff too slow in implementation

By Tita Datu Puangco

Advice
FOR THE ANXIOUS PERSON AT WORK

I AM A SUCCESSFUL ENTREPRENEUR. My business has grown tenfold the past five years. I am aware that my products are much in demand and I want to grow even bigger in the next five years. I have a clear strategic plan. My problem is implementation. How can I increase my people's action orientation?

I call my people's attention to opportunities in the market, they agree but nothing gets done. For the past two years, business results have slowed down. I think my people are getting complacent. What shall I do?

Successful Entrepreneur

You are not alone. Many business leaders today recognize action orientation or implementation as a core issue. You may have the most elegant strategic plans but if they are not implemented, they are useless. You are an entrepreneur. Typically, an entrepreneur spots and recognizes opportunities in the marketplace and demands quick turnaround action from the organization.

I can relate to you as an entrepreneur. My management team has to remind me time and again that every new direction requires support structures and systems and the right people to make things happen. In fact, new directions, if not properly managed, can even confuse and complicate people's work and paralyze action. So if you want rapid growth, you have to be patient and focus on execution.

Missing link

Larry Bossidy and Ram Charan defined execution as "a system of getting things done through questioning, analysis, and follow through, a discipline for meshing strategy with reality, aligning people with goals, and achieving the results promised." They say that execution is the missing link and the gap between what leaders want to achieve and the ability of their company to deliver results.

They cited that execution is a discipline that is essential to strategy, a major job of the business leader and must be embedded in the culture. They identified seven essential behaviors that you can try putting into practice.

One is to know your people and your business. This is very critical. You may say you know the business because you built it. But your business when it was a startup company is very different from a growing company that needs systems and structures to grow. Then again people are behind the execution of plans. Do you know your people's strengths and weaknesses?

Two is to insist on realism. Often as entrepreneurs we tend to spend time on the vision state. Our visions are so clear to ourselves we think, vision and realism are the same, they are not. Realism is understanding what is possible given the situation and available resources, both human and financial, to the company. Setting impossible goals have the impact of discouraging people.

Three is to set clear goals and priorities. Goals and priorities have to be fixed for a given period. While we know they can be flexible and dynamic, changes have to be introduced within the year only when necessary and urgent. We have to remember that change transitions have to be considered, people need to have a sense of completion and closure as they pursue with focus current priorities.

Fourth, follow through. Remember the adage, what gets measured gets done. When we follow through, we call people's attention to what is important. Follow through may seem tedious at first, but psychologically it encourages people with high achievement orientation to continue to strive to do better.

Fifth, reward the doers. There is no better reinforcement for good performance than having the right recognition and rewards. Incentives have to send clear signals that getting things done get rewarded.

Sixth, expand people's capabilities by coaching. Every encounter can become an opportunity to coach. People need to know their strengths and improvement areas and what is required to perform well.

Seventh, is to know your self and continue to grow and improve your leadership skills.

Finally and most importantly is to strive for simplicity. It has been defined by Bill Jensen, citing it as the new source of competitive advantage, as "the power to do less of what does not matter, the power to do more of what does matter, help everybody work smarter." He states that people want to do the right things and make a difference. So when we simplify we enable them to live better in a world of infinite choices. People today are struggling to figure out and create order through greater clarity.

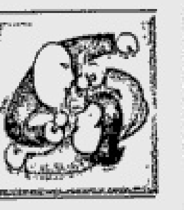
May you enhance your effort to strengthen execution of your strategic plans.

(*Ms Puangco is CEO of Ancilla Enterprise Development Consulting, a training and consulting company specializing in strategy management, leading change, human resource systems, leadership and enterprise training.*)

Switzerland banker goes back to Philippines, becomes an organic farmer

By Ime Morales Aznar
Contributor

CAREER TALES



ED GUEVARA LIVED AND WORKED AS A banker in Switzerland for 10 years. Money was good and life was comfortable. "You'd think that would make a person happy," Guevara confesses. "But no, there was something missing." That was the beginning of his journey towards an entirely new adventure and advocacy—that of organic farming, natural healing through herbs and natural methods, and sustainable agriculture.

Guevara admits that while in Switzerland, he used to see images of his suffering countrymen on TV. "It hurt, especially when you see fellow Filipinos looking for food in the garbage, I wanted to do something and I couldn't stop thinking about how I can help." He finally decided to go back to the Philippines and, together with his siblings, start a family farm, Geofarm, in Bayambang, Pangasinan.

"A family that works together," Guevara believes, "could become self-sufficient in terms of food, lead a sustainable lifestyle, obtain its own energy from biogas, solar and windmill, (and thus) alleviate poverty and have food security."

Healing the earth

Guevara says that he learned everything from nature. He learned how to be a farmer by actually doing it, having no formal training in agriculture. "I took up computer management in college," he says, "but you don't need a Ph.D to do this." Guevara says that a person needs only to be interested in farming and to learn from nature, to listen, observe and communicate with it. When you connect to the earth, listen to nature's elements, and open your senses, then learning will start.

Aside from actual farming, it's also important for Guevara to share his knowledge about agriculture and healing. As a consultant for sustainable agriculture and development, Guevara transforms ordinary farms into healing centers. Raw lands become organic farms, plain resorts become healing gardens.

Working with a holistic approach, his tasks include training the staff in healthy cooking, transforming the landscape into a medicinal or healing garden, preparing the place's waste management and energy system, developing modules and lectures for guests, and even teaching the staff on how to deal with guests. Guevara also teaches that common diseases can be cured right in the home, using natural methods. "I create eco-villages, centers for the youth where they can hold team-building activities and camps," says Guevara, who has been doing this work for 14 years.

Guevara's very own Geofarm in Bayambang, as well as his Geoshop in Cubao, have made available spirulina tablets and flakes (for skin care), *muscovado* sugar, virgin coconut oil, *barako* coffee from Baguio, mineral salt, *sukang paombong*, and noodles made from *malunggay*, *saluyot* and carrots. Guevara cultures spirulina, a nutrient rich blue-green algae, in fountains in his farm and in some of the other farms he designed.

According to Guevarra, selling and promoting the produce of the community is part of organic farming because "it helps the local industry and the community; it helps the farmers overcome the cycle of poverty." These all-organic products are readily available to community members, and also to the general public, especially those who need the healing properties of these products.

GUEVARA IME AZNAR/CONTRIBUTOR

Holistic designs

Guevara's design expertise is multi-disciplinary—he doesn't only plan the different kinds of plants or trees that go into each farm, he also designs the place's waste management system, provides architectural advice, and injects natural healing, arts, and indigenous culture into his designs and plans. "I don't always accept payment for the work that I do," he reveals, "but the waiting list is quite long; I just work on those projects that are on my travel path like Pangasinan and Baguio." He also provides his expertise to nongovernment organizations, for instance,

SWITZERLAND/ B7

Forever young in a helter-skelter life

WORKING MOM
Gina Abuyuan

ONE OF MY FRIENDS LIKES TO SAY THAT I'm 32 going on 80 (actually, he first said this when I was 23—"You're 23 going on 60."). A blind masseuse once touched my body and asked me how old I was. I was only 27 then. She thought I was nearing 50. Considering I was in the vegan, meditation and Higher Mystery School phase of my life, I flipped. How could my "detoxed," spiritually awake body seem like it was middle-aged and creaky?

The answer came to me last weekend, five years after that freaky massage. It started Friday morning, after my morning playtime with the kids and telling them not to wait up for me. After a tiring day of shoots and meetings, Friday night had me partying harder than people half my age and playing confidante to someone with more history, adventure and trauma in his young body than most of us can even dream of.

The surreal experience spilled over to Saturday as I roamed Greenbelt in a hung over haze, hooking up for lunch with a much older friend, and driving home in the beating rain. When I reached home, it was like I had been away for ages. The nightmare was over; I was back where I belonged: in the chubby arms of my twin boys, and the gangly embrace of my daughter. In a space of 24 hours I had lived more lives than an ordinary person can handle in a week: I was editor in chief, parenting expert, sorority sister, bohemian writer, well-connected social butterfly, and loyal and level-headed friend, all in a continuous, nervous breath. It was more than exhausting. It made me feel old.

Premature old age

This is what that blind masseuse must've perceived five years ago. Then, despite my being "dedicated" to the Path, I was living a double (ok, triple) life. Deep ecologist by day, student of the Merkaba once or twice a week, I was hanging out with pop groups and chugging San Mig Lite by night. It was ridiculous. I was fooling everyone, including myself.

Pretty soon, my fatigue began to show. My mother's staff began telling me I was looking older than her—and it wasn't be-

FOREVER/ B7

What does the average boss wish her employees knew?

DEAR WW: I AM FRUSTRATED BY the people that I manage. They are always willing to blame the boss for problems, but they never seem to acknowledge how they've contributed to the mess.

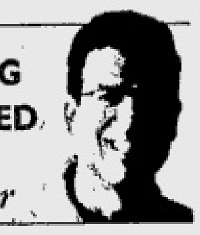
Annoyed in the Corner Office

Whenever I think of what it is like to be a boss today, I think of the Commodore Hotel. During the Beirut Civil War, this was the hotel of choice for journalists. When you checked into the hotel they didn't ask, "Smoking or nonsmoking?" At the Commodore they asked, "Shelling side or sniper side?"

I don't want to make excuses for bad bossing, but employees also need to learn to appreciate the challenges of bossing today. Like the Commodore, it's tough to boss when you're getting sniped by your employees and shelled by your own boss. Below I've listed some questions to help everyone appreciate the challenges of the corner office. For more, check out, "I Wish You Would Just..." by Todd McDonald and Kyndra Wilson (www.WalkTheTalk.com).

Can you do a better job of asking questions when you don't understand? For every boss that gets annoyed when an employee asks a question, there are many more who appreciate them. Sure there will be times when even the most patient boss will bark at your questions, so always be ready to remind them that you are asking the questions so you can do the job the right way.

WORKING WOUNDED



Bob Rosner

Do you bring problems you have with the boss to the boss? Feeding the grapevine with horror stories about your boss may make you feel better, but it won't help your boss to change. That's why it's so important, if you have a good relationship with your boss, to bring your concerns directly to him or her. If you don't, see if you can talk to HR or someone who has the respect of both you and your boss.

Can you take more responsibility? Again, for every micromanager boss there are many more bosses who love to see their people take initiative. Look around your department at the people who are leading projects and in positions of responsibility. Figure out why certain people accumulate responsibility and see if they are doing things that you should be doing.

Are you willing to try new things? Offer to serve on task forces, tackle new projects, etc. Develop the reputation as someone who is open-minded and ready to tackle a new challenge.

Do you thank them for a job well done? Sure your boss has a nicer office, bigger paycheck, etc. But they are still human beings (that said, I'm sure at least a few of you will write to me to challenge the humanity of your boss) and everyone appreciates a pat on the back. As long as you steer clear of sucking up, it makes sense to acknowledge when the boss turns in an outstanding performance.

Use these strategies and you'll turn that civil war into a much more civil place to work.

(*Mr. Rosner, an internationally syndicated columnist, author and speaker, is based in Seattle, Washington, USA. E-mail him at* bob@-workingwounded.com.)

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Switzerland banker goes back to Philippines ...

From page B6

through the telephone or the Internet.

"Our farm's concept has been replicated all over the Philippines—because of all the people who came to our farm and liked what they saw," says Guevara. He believes that for change to happen in the world, a person must start to change himself, his own life. In a Third World country pummeled with political and economic instability, there is no room for waiting. "We don't have to wait for a leader, we must hold our future in our hands," he says.

Guevara takes advantage of the fact that Filipinos love to idolize and imitate. "That's why setting a good example is important, we want people to copy a good model." By showing people what they can do, how they can become successful, and how a small start can eventually become an important change, one can help them uplift their own lives. Through one small individual change, a person can contribute to the shift in consciousness, and eventually, changes in the community.

"We lack the information we need," he says. "Information about indigenous culture, for example, will disappear in maybe 10 years—who will tell the stories?" Guevara wants to get the word out, to share his knowledge so that people and the earth may be helped, and healed. "Our role is to share the information with as many people as we could," he says.

(*Send feedback to* blubitel@yahoo.com.)

Forever young ...

From page B6

cause I had whittled my body (and face fat) away to 85 pounds. My too-many masks were wearing me down. The too-many personalities I had built were closing in on me, constricting my breathing, my heart, my blood flow. If it weren't for a rude awakening and a return to my Christian faith, I would've died of premature old age. And yes, I believe there is such a thing.

Too much, too soon

What is premature old age? It happens when we've lived too many lives in short bursts, in so brief periods that we haven't had time to savor and be fully present to them. It's got nothing to do with being cynical or jaded; the contrived "been there done that" posturing some folks like to adopt because it's supposed to be "cool." (Oh, and while we're on it, here are some things I think are cool: packing lunch for work because eating out doesn't make sense anymore, keeping promises to your children, and staying away from drugs). Nor does it happen when you "live life in the fast lane." It happens when you sacrifice authenticity for image; when you've piled on too many stories that you don't know who you are and what you're supposed to be living for anymore.

It must've been the alcohol; it must've been the expectations of those around me (or, more accurately, my assumptions of what others expected of me) that made me take upon those many aborted roles last weekend. Too many characters, too little time to get used to their skins-much too little, in fact, that I forced myself into their delicate fibers and created horrible rips and wrinkles in their flesh.

You can imagine how relieved I was to be back home. Here, even if physical exhaustion descended upon me like a cloud, my center felt alive. I was one thing, and one thing only, to the two toddlers who scream "Mommy!" even when I'm in the room, to the leggy 8-year-old who wipes my sweat after I work out. I was their Constant, however stressed or ditzy or loving. I was again at the point where I could start over and be in my authentic element: the past 24-hours behind me and forgotten, fully present now to Simone's desire to jump rope, Marco's preference to sit on my lap during meals, and Mateo's new habit of crying in the middle of the night.

It's an awareness that touches me, moves me, inspires me. In that awareness, I feel ageless and powerful.

(*Gina Abuyuan is editor in chief of Working Mom magazine. The beautiful Dawn Zulueta-Lagdameo graces the cover of the September issue. Get your copy now. Feedback is welcome at* gina_abuyuan@abs.pinoycentral.com.)

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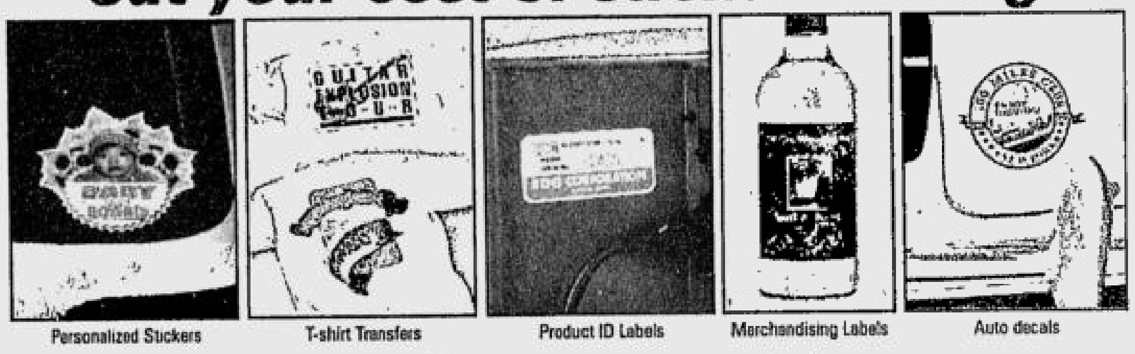

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Wash away your worries about Male Pattern Hair Loss (MPHL). It is caused by increased levels of DHT (dihydrotestosterone) in the scalp[1]. MPHL is characterized by loss of visible hair over areas of your scalp[2]. This is a progressive condition and chances are it will get worse as time goes by if left untreated[1], unless you will be bold enough to do something about MPHL.

Research indicates that seeking early medical treatment can slow down continued hair loss and in some cases hair can even be regrown[1].

Ask your dermatologist about ways with which you can fight male pattern hair loss.

You don't have to drain your energy looking for other solutions. Just be bold, so you don't have to be bald.

be bold.
not bald.

ProHAIR

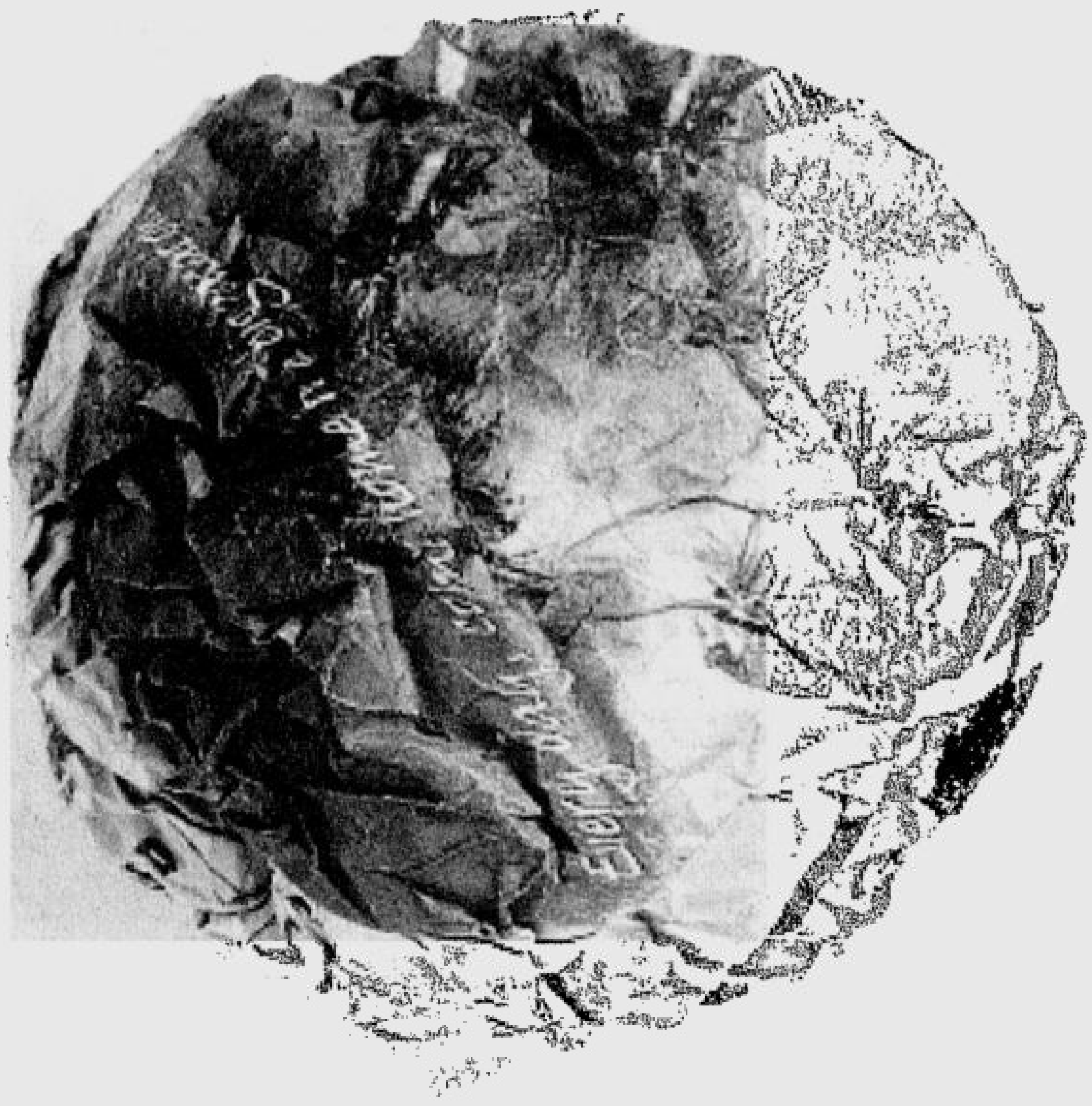
you can reverse male pattern hair loss.[1,*]

For more information on the ProHAIR program call hotline number 878-6338.
You may also send inquiries to fax no. 813-1172 or email: inquire@prohair-info.com

ProHAIR is a Healthcare Information Program of MSD in cooperation with the **Philippine Dermatological Society**

Reference : 1. Libecco J and Bergfeld WF. Expert Opin Pharmacother 2004;5(4):933-940
2. Kaufman K. Eur J Dermatol 2002 12:38-49

* In studies, hair has been regrown in MPHL patients, but individual results may vary from patient to patient
12-2005-PPC-05-PH-4004-AD



Don't throw it all away. Recycle.

Our news is printed on 100% recycled news print, using organic, soy-based ink. We resized our paper to save at least seven trees a day. We believe in recycling. Because, the good news is, whatever we can do to save our environment will do us a world of good.

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SCHEDULE OF SEMINARS

Friday, 16 September 2005

3:00 – 4:00 pm
Acer Technology Innovation
Jess Cheng, *Product Specialist* -Acer Notebooks
Acer Philippines, Inc.

4:00 – 5:00 pm
Advantages of Whitebox Notebook PC: Time to Market
Wowie Wong, *Channel Account Manager*
Intel Microelectronics Philippines, Inc.

5:00 – 6:00 pm
Mobility
Heidi Co, *Product Manager*
Epson Philippines Corporation

6:00 – 7:00 pm
Open Up and Unlock a World of Possibilities
Richard Bangayan, *Product Manager, Asus Notebook PCs*
Banbros Commercial, Inc.

Saturday, 17 September 2005

10:00 – 11:00 am
Mobile Computing: The Benefit of Internet Access Anytime, Anywhere
Matthew Lloren, *Marketing Manager - Product Development*, Innove Marketing RNB
Innove Communications, Inc. (Globelines)

11:00 am – 12:00 nn
Experience the Freedom of Wireless Networking
Joel Ocampo, *Product Specialist, Linksys*
Cisco Systems, Inc.

1:00 – 2:00 pm
Mobile Printing Lifestyle
Katrina Tioseco, *Product Assistant - Digital Cameras and Selphy Photo Developers* /
Jill Santiago, Product Assistant - Canon BubbleJet Printers
Canon Marketing (Philippines), Inc.

2:00 – 3:00 pm
Wireless Internet Service
Martin Lopez, *Product Manager - GlobeQUEST Internet VAS*
Innove Communications, Inc. (GlobeQUEST)

3:00 – 4:00 pm
Release Your Jabra
Alex Chua, *Sales and Marketing Head*,
JabraComlan, Inc.

4:00 – 5:00 pm
Ultra Portability / Burn Clip Burn / Fiendly Power
Mr. Jonathan Dee, *Managing Director*,
NetEssentials Corporation /
Mr. Carlo Ma. Guerrero, *President - Pinoy Windows Mobile and Microsoft Most Valuable Professional for Windows Mobile*
Network Essentials, Inc.

5:00 – 6:00 pm
Portable Music and Movies Whenever and Wherever You Go
Jason Teh, *General Manager*
Quadtron Technologies, Inc.

6:00 – 7:00 pm
Apple iPod
Maleng Raysa, *Operations Manager*
Apple Center

Sunday, 18 September 2005

10:00 – 11:00 am
Colour Your Music
Rose Dee Oquendo, *Product Manager, Creative MP3 Products*
Axis Global Technologies, Inc.

1:00 – 2:00 pm
Digital Lifestyle
Cecilio Tuanquin, *Sales Manager - Apple, iPod, iPAQ*
Microwarehouse, Inc.

2:00 – 3:00 pm
Windows Mobile
Rey Vegafria, *Founder, Airfagev.com*
Microsoft Philippines

3:00 – 4:00 pm
Mobility and Portability
Michael Payumo, *Sales and Support Manager*
Intersystem Technologies, Inc.

4:00 – 5:00 pm
Highlights for VPC Viper Notebook
Ricky Talato, *Product Manager*
VillMan Computer Systems, Inc.

5:00 – 6:00 pm
The Integral V. Mic
Erwin Abad, *Sales Manager*
Video Vox Corporation

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PR Congress made affordable for students

THE PUBLIC RELATIONS SOCIETY OF the Philippines (PRSP) has scaled down the registration schedule for its 12th National Public Relations Congress in a bid to attract more participants from the academe, the student sector and other interested individuals.

This was announced by PRSP president Milen Sison-de Quiros and Congress chair Dante M. Velasco, who said non-PRSP members desiring to attend the gathering to be held Sep. 22 and 23 at the Edsa Shangri-La in Mandaluyong City may pay P1,000 only for the topic of their choice.

Groups of six participants may also pay at a discounted rate equivalent to the total registration fees for five persons, meaning one of them gets free admission.

The students are required to present a valid ID to avail themselves of the discounted rates.

Up for discussion at the forthcoming PR Congress are interesting topics deemed greatly relevant to PR practice in an ever-changing economic, social and political environment.

The Congress organizers have invited experts and authorities on the various aspects of the PR trade as resource speakers in the workshops lined up during the two-day affair.

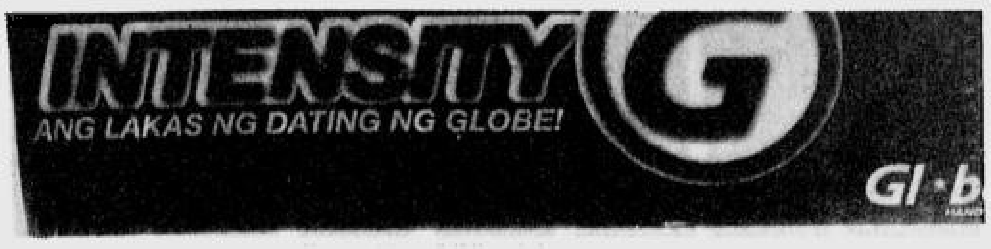
A key highlight of the PR Congress will be a CEO Forum that aims to look deeper into PR in a regulated industry with Jose P. de Jesus, president and CEO of the Manila North Tollways Corp, Jesus Francisco, president and CEO of Meralco; and Miguel Navarete, senior group director, Manila Water Corp, as panellists.

Ambassador Jose A. Zaide will talk on "The Compleat PR Professional's Guide to Protocol," while Wilma V. Galvante, senior vice president, Entertainment TV of GMA Channel 7, will tackle "Harnessing the Power of Celebrities."

Joel Lacsamana, himself a veteran newsman-turned PR professional, is sure to trigger an animated discussion with his dissertation of "Negotiating the Media Environment: New Trends in Media Relations," while professor Sonny Coloma, erstwhile Cabinet Undersecretary, will speak on "PR in Government: Mastering the Bureaucracy."

Dr. Jose R. Lacson Jr. will lecture on "Let's Talk Research: Measuring PR Effectiveness Beyond Counting Column Centimeters."

This year's PR Congress, which has for its theme "PR actually," is designed to raise the standards and principles of PR practice to match new challenges and achieve "leading edge effectiveness."



GLOBE SUPPORTS 14TH MOTORSHOW INTERNATIONAL

Globe Telecom teams up with the organizers of the 14th Motorshow International to be held from Sep. 15 to 18 at The Forum, PICC, Pasay City. Hundreds of car enthusiasts, including car clubs, will participate to showcase both vintage cars and the latest models. Present during the contract signing are, from left, Kerwin Reganit, Globe Telecom marketing specialist, Marisa D. Nallana, president, Petco, and Jojo Javillonar, Globe Telecom regional corporate marketing manager.

Araw Awards a la Cannes

WHAT'S NEW WITH THE ARAW Awards this year? For one we are gearing up to be "Ready for the World!?" which is why we have gone interactive. Anything you need to find pertaining to the Araw Awards can be found at www.ads4export.com.

The site works on the concept of having ads worthy of export to international waters and thus the name ads4export. Everything one needs to know about the Araw Awards can be found in one courier package with different inserts for specific concerns. Rules and regulations, entry forms, categories and entry labels per category, or the whole Araw Awards kit as a zip file are downloadable and printable using Adobe Acrobat.

Additionally, a new system of tallying will be introduced via the bar code system where scores are done with the help of wireless barcode readers. This method is expected to ensure the accuracy of scores given by the local and foreign judges. Judging, for the first time, will be done just a few days before the Congress on site in Cebu, which adds to excitement and anticipation of all entrants to the competition.

New categories have also been added and expanded while a few were folded into others to produce a roster that is more synchronized with those of Cannes and the Adfest. Craftsmanship competitions have been separated from product categories to acknowledge the real heroes behind their production.

This year's Araw Competitions will have no platinums. Instead, it gives birth to a new standard of creative excellence, the Best of Medium, henceforth to be called The Grand Araw Award.

Anticipation builds as thousands of entries are expected again this year from the country's premier ad agencies, advertisers and production houses. Once again proving not just the creativity of the Filipinos but the fact that we are indeed Ready for the World.

Log on now to www.ads4export.com for more details. Last day for submission of entries is on Sep. 19.

Symposium on managing hypertension set Sep. 15

ABBOTT LABORATORIES WILL SPONSOR A dinner symposium with two renowned international speakers (cardiologist and nephrologist) to discuss the results of the latest hypertension study among patients with type 2 diabetes called Benedict. Hypertension or high blood pressure is a known risk factor for cardiovascular diseases, and plays a major role in the development of kidney diseases in people with diabetes.

Benedict (Bergamo Nephrologic Diabetes Complications Trial) is an Italian trial that examined the effects of various combinations of the ACE inhibitor, trandolapril, and the calcium channel blocker (CCB) verapamil, during the onset of microalbuminuria (a known precursor of kidney damage) in more than 1,200 patients with type 2 diabetes and hypertension.

The new study showed that the combination of the ACE inhibitor, trandolapril, and the CCB verapamil reduced the incidence of protein in the urine or microalbuminuria, compared with placebo.

Benedict further underscores the potential role of combination antihypertensive medicines in delaying the progression of microalbuminuria, an important treatment goal for individuals with hypertension and diabetes.

Antihypertensive medicines have been shown in various studies to help slow the progression of kidney damage significantly.

The title of the symposium will be "Optimizing Cardiometabolic and Renal Protection in High Risk Hypertensive Patients Using ACE-I/CCB Combination Therapy," with professors Rainer E. Kolloch and Luis Miguel Ruilope as speakers.

Kolloch is an international speaker whose research in the area of cardiology has resulted in more than 200 original papers, reviews, book chapters and editorials. He has participated in numerous multicenter studies including HOT (Hypertenson Optimal Treatment), Invest (International Verapamil SR Trandolapril Study), and Opera (Omapatrilat in Persons with Enhanced Risk of Atherosclerotic events).

Ruilope, on the other hand, is associate professor of internal medicine at the Complutense University in Madrid, Spain, and head of the hypertension unit at the 12 de Octubre Hospital in Madrid.

The symposium will be on Sep. 15, 6:30 p.m. at the New World Renaissance Hotel, Makati.

Bits & Clips

GTF sets auditions

GANTIMPALA THEATER FOUNDATION (GTF), IN COOPERAtion with the National Parks Development Committee (NPDC), announces the audition for its forthcoming production "El Filibusterismo" slated on Sep. 16, 1 to 4 p.m. at the rehearsal hall of the Concert at the Park Auditorium, Luneta, Manila. Up for grabs are lead and supporting roles. The audition is open to male and female actors between 18 and 50 years old. A 3-minute Filipino monologue must be prepared and they must bring resume with a headshot colored photo. Call 536-5860, 528-0603 or 0921-5286308 (Alwin Ignacio).

Mooncake Festival at SM Malls

CREATIF FOIRE PRO, TOGETHER WITH SM SUPERMALLS and The Podium, invite you to come and celebrate the ongoing "Mooncake Festival: Philippine Celebration of a Chinese Tradition", at SM Megamall (until Sep. 21), The Podium (until Sep. 19), SM Manila (Sep. 14 to 29), SM North Edsa (Sep. 15 to 28), SM Southmall (Sep. 15 to 28 and SM Fairview (Sep. 15 to 28). The exhibits, which aim to promote the relationship and cultural understanding between Filipinos and Chinese, feature various Chinese items and food products on sale, plus activities such as feng shui consultation, Chinese calligraphy, lion dance, and kung fu demonstrations. For inquiries, call 687-7009 or 914-1057.

Seminar series on sign language

THE POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION NETWORK-INTERNATional (PEN-International), through its local partner the School of Deaf Education and Applied Studies (SDEAS) of the De La Salle-College of Saint Benilde (DLS-CSB), will hold a series of seminars on Filipino Sign Language (FSL) on Sep. 16 and 17 at the DLS-CSB campus in Taft, Manila. Organized in cooperation with the Philippine Deaf Resource Center (PDRC) and the Philippine Federation of the Deaf (PFD), the activity shall focus on the importance of the widespread use of FSL in family, classroom and community settings to further the educational achievements and development of the deaf youth. For more details, call SDEAS at 526-7441 to 46 local 239 or 164.

Love at first sip

FALL IN LOVE AT FIRST SIP WITH COUNTRYSTYLE'S DARK Roast Coffee. CountryStyle's Dark Roast Coffee is made from a special blend of carefully selected beans roasted to perfection and ground just before brewing to ensure freshness. Now, CountryStyle gives you more reason to savor its coffee with the Coffee and Bagel Festival. With as much as a 20-percent discount, you can enjoy CountryStyle's freshly brewed and freshly baked coffee and bagel combo that's light on your pocket. The Coffee and Bagel Festival is ongoing until Sep. 16 at selected CountryStyle outlets around Metro Manila.

Upsilon Cordillera experience

THE UPSILON SIGMA PHI BATCH '55, IN COOPERATION with Upsilon Sigma Phi Alumni Association (Uspaa) commemorates its golden year in the fraternity from Sep. 16 to 18 at Baguio City through its hosting of "A Cordillera Experience…Pambihirang Fellowship", a grand reunion of resident and alumni fellows. Cohosts of the reunion are batches '65 and 80 as ruby and silver jubilarians of the fraternity, respectively. Upsilon Sigma Phi, based in UP, is the oldest fraternity in Southeast Asia. For more information, log on to www.upsilon.com or call the "Cordillera Experience" secretariat at 807-7950 or 0915-2101909 (Bernie Kahn).

Career guidance fair

ORGANIZED BY INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION SPECIALISTS (Inter-Ed), the 17th Career Counseling and Guidance Fair 2005 is slated from Sep. 15 and 16 at the Philippine Trade Training Center (PTTC), Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City as a major highlight of the 25th anniversary celebration of Inter-Ed, which is acknowledged as an "authority in world-class education." The education and career exhibit will showcase an array of opportunities for the best college education, training, career placement here and abroad through exhibits, seminars and workshops, interactive booths, and application of cutting-edge software. For more information, call Inter-Ed at 819-1001 or 819-1002.

Virgin coconut oil softgels

THERE IS NOW AN EASY WAY TO ENJOY VIRGIN coconut oil, both as a food supplement and system rejuvenator. ActiVcare Virgin Coconut Oil capsules combine the miracle of softgel capsules in easy-to-carry packs that you can take along with you anytime, anywhere. They come available in 1000mg capsules in 10 blister packs per box and are the only ones that contain lauric acid-the main component in mother's milk. ActiVcare virgin coconut oil products retain their pure, natural form. ActiVcare virgin coconut oil products undergo meticulous processes and contain no chemicals, solvents, additives or preservatives. For free consultations, e-mail support@u-earnmore.com, or visit Unit 201 Emerald Building, 24 Emerald Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig, or call 638-2934, 634-9578 or 636-4998.

BK, French or American

THE FAMOUS BURGER KING 7-INCH CHICKEN sandwiches are now made even better. The BK Chicken Sandwich Royale is a choice of two distinct but equally delightful offerings. On one hand, you have the BK American Chicken Sandwich that's made of a delicious chicken patty topped with American cheese, lettuce, tomato and mayonnaise in special sesame seed bun. Then there's the BK French Chicken Sandwich. Same delicious chicken patty and soft, fluffy sesame seed bun but now complemented with slices of ham, Swiss cheese and mayonnaise. What's more, you get for free your side and drink. Golden fried french fries and your choice of any soft drink are served to you automatically when you order any of the humongous BK Chicken Sandwich Royale sandwiches. Isn't that a sweet deal for only P85? Head now to the nearest Burger King restaurant, and take advantage of this offer before Sep. 15.

Les Holdes, the Hot French sale

EVERYBODY LOVES A REASONABLY PRICED designer line. That's what Guinot Institut Paris is doing with its phenomenal Les Soldes promo. Les Soldes is how the French call their hot summer sale. While the summer sale is coming to a close in Paris, here in the Philippines, it has just begun. The French skincare authority is giving discounts on its signature treatments and products, plus special gifts for its valued patrons from Sep. 15 to Oct. 15. Guinot is the only anti-aging line and salon for all ages. It helps arrest, prevent and reverse the signs of aging at any stage. Its products and exclusive skin and body treatments are available at Guinot treatment centers at the ground floor, 6750 Retail Arcade, Makati with telephone numbers 816-3952 and at the 5th floor Wellness Zone, Edsa Shangri-La Mall (635-4538 or 635-0357).

ProductFiles

50% discount on Samsung Laser printer

FROM SEP 15 TO 18 AT SM MEGAmall, Samsung is giving you a chance to upgrade your old printers at half the cost. All you have to do is trade in your old printer and you can get up to 50-percent discount on either a Samsung ML1610 monochrome laser printer or a Samsung SCX4100 3-in-1 printer (print/copy/scan). So make sure you don't miss this opportunity. See flyers or posters for more details.

SAMSUNG ML1610 monochrome laser printer

The new Samsung SCX-4100 provides digital printing, copying, and full-scanning features, all in one unit. According to Samsung, it is currently the world's smallest laser multifunction printer. With a printing speed of up to 14 pages per minute (ppm), the SCX-4100 also provides various digital copying features for customers who require a lot of copies. The SCX-4100 has Samsung's software, SmarThru4 - an application for scanning and image distribution that enhances multifunction printing solutions.

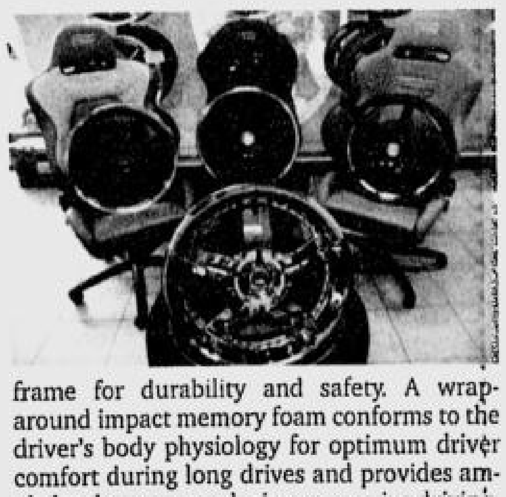
The ML-1610 operates at speeds of up to 16 ppm. It also offers a 150-sheet tray, and a standard memory of 2MB. The ML-1610 is also equipped to manage a full range of paper types and sizes including envelopes, labels, transparencies, and index cards.

SAMSUNG SCX-4100

Concept One's innovation

ANSWERING THE CALL FOR NEW AND innovative technology, Concept One is spicing up the aftermarket industry with wheels in Carbon Fiber finish technology. These lightweight and durable wheels are popular in both the US and European markets. "True to our theme of innovating technology, Concept One is proud to introduce the Carbon Fiber finish wheels. We are also introducing the Twenty Inches Strong (TiS) wheels which are imported from the United States and popular among DUB patrons. These are the wheels that you see on MTV and rides of Hollywood celebrities," adds Sammy Liuson, president of Wheel Gallery, the country's first and only recognized DUB shop in the country.

The popularity of the DUB phenomena has spawned the proliferation of wheel shops claiming to be DUB shops. According to Liuson, some of these shops sell fake DUB wheels. "Our products has been quality tested by the Japan Wheel License (JWL) and is endorsed by the Specialty Equipment Manufacturing Association (Sema)."



Shown are Concept One's carbon fiber finish wheels, saddled on Concept One's leather edition Sport Tuner Seats (STS), from left, Racing Hart, Inferno and Scudo. At the foreground is the chrome finish TIS-01. The STS seats feature a full lightweight tubular steel frame for durability and safety. A wrap-around impact memory foam conforms to the driver's body physiology for optimum driver comfort during long drives and provides ample lumbar support during aggressive driving. Side bolsters keep you firmly planted on to the seat avoiding slippage, which allows for better on-road or office concentration.

Concept One's sport seats are fully reclinable, making them ideal for street and competition use. All seats have built-in adaptors and racing four-point and five-point seatbelt harnesses. For more information, visit Wheel Gallery at the Kartek Center, Santolan Road, Greenhills, San Juan or call 722-8154/726-0965 or visit www.conceptonewheels.com.

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas

Committee on Disposal of Real Properties

INVITATION TO BID

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas invites all interested parties to bid for the following real estate properties:

	Location	TCT No.		Area	Description	Minimum Bid Price
		New	Old			
	METRO MANILA					
	CALOOCAN CITY					
1	Brgy. Bagumbong	C-343752	320138	6,181	Residential	4,607,000
	Bankers Village, Bagumbong					
2	Residential lots	10 lots		323 to 358 sq.m.		P1.6T to P2T / sq.m.
	LAS PIÑAS					
	San Isidro Subd., Pamplona Uno					
3	Lot 11, Block 6	T-77950	3838-A	337	Res'l lot w/ fence	1,348,000
4	Lot 1, Block 2	T-77948	3839-A	428	Com'l lot w/ 957 sq.m bldg	6,656,000
	MANILA					
5	1002, Prestige Tower Condo. OngpinSt.	CCT-46211	CCT-37507	111	Res'l condo w/ parking	2,997,000
	MAKATI					
6	108 Gen. Del Pilar St., South Cembo	T-218928	T-195505	285	Resl w/ 388 sqm imp	6,128,040
	Trafalgar Plaza Condominium, H. V. Dela Costa St., Salcedo Vill.					
7	Commercial Condominiums	7 units		218 to 507 sq.m.		P35 T to P38T / sq.m.
	8737 Paseo de Roxas - 1st e-Bank Tower					
8	Office Condominiums	20 units		268 to 742 sq.m		P38 T to 60 T per sq.m.
9	Parking Slot (Ground)	14 slots		12.50 sq. m per slot		P550 T per slot
10	Parking Slot (Lower Basement)	26 slots		12.50 sq. m per slot		P500 T per slot
11	Parking Slot (Upper Basement)	32 slots		12.50 sq. m per slot		P500 T per slot
	PDCP BankCenter Herrera cor. San Agustin & Leviste Sts					
12	Office/commercial condo units	7 units		71 to 269 sq.m.		P45 T to 60 T per sq.m.
	MALABON					
13	Rodriguez St., Rodriguez Subd.	M-24649	M-10350	299	Res'l w/ 320 sq.m. hse	688,000
	MUNTINLUPA					
14	Lot 276 St. Bernard St. San Jose Subd.	T-11478	710/T-4	563	Residential Lot	3,490,600
	Ridgeview 2					
15	Residential lots	23 lots		55 to 105 sq.m.		P3,200 toP3,400/ sq.m.
	PASAY CITY					
16	Bo. San Roque	143122	133752	336	Ind'l w/ 2-storey bldg.	3,829,000
	PARAÑAQUE					
17	M. Olondriz St., BF Homes Ph II	146464-65	97761-62	585	Res'l w/ 328 sqm. Imp	5,700,000
18	Factor Compound, Brgy Dongalo	163666	148209	394	Res'l lot w/ 220 sq.m. imp	2,870,000
	QUEZON CITY					
19	Lot 797-C-5, Luzon Ave. Brgy. Culiat **	106913		10,000	Residential lot	33,000,000
20	Lot 797-C-2, Luzon Ave. Brgy. Culiat **	106914		10,000	Residential lot	33,000,000
21	Quirino Hway, Kaligayahan, Novaliches	N-242996	111624	300	Com'l w/ 402 sqm 2-storey	7,020,000
22	19 Mother Ignacia Ave. Brgy. Paligsahan	N-243874	N-220475	1,000	Com'l/Res'l w/ 4 bldg imp.	27,493,150
23	Unit 909 Imperial Condo., Timog Avenue	N-31474	10619	46.887	Res'l. condominium unit	1,875,000
24	Cubao	N-217400-02	N-172812-13	1,001	Com'l w/ 1290 sqm bank bldg.	35,310,000
	LUZON					
	BATANGAS					
	Calaca					
25	Brgy Lumbang, Calzada, Calaca	T-85276	76312	3,974	vacant com'l/ind'l lot	1,192,200
26	Brgy Lumbang, Calzada, Calaca	T-85275	76311	40,000	vacant com'l/ind'l lot	12,000,000
27	Brgy Lumbang, Calzada, Calaca	T-85274	76310	40,000	vacant com'l/ind'l lot	6,800,000
28	Brgy Lumbang, Calzada, Calaca	T-85277	76322	37,032	vacant com'l/ind'l lot	6,206,400
29	Brgy. Sinisian, Calaca	T-101391		12,558	Agro-Industrial lot	3,384,300
30	Brgy. Sinisian, Calaca	T-101392		46,880	Agro-Industrial lot	12,634,100
31	Brgy. Sinisian, Calaca	T-101393		48,098	Agro-Industrial lot	12,962,400
32	Brgy. Sinisian, Calaca	T-101394		40,400	Agro-Industrial lot	10,887,600
33	Brgy. Sinisian, Calaca	T-101395		40,333	Agro-Industrial lot	10,869,700
34	Brgy. Sinisian, Calaca	T-101396		40,364	Agro-Industrial lot	10,878,000
	LEMERY					
35	Ilustre Ave. Poblacion, Lemery	T-10069-71	6381-83	758	com'l w bldgs	14,320,000
	Talisay					
36	Bo. Niog Laurel, Talisay	T-88518	22695	5,031	Agricultural	471,900
37	Bo. Niog Laurel, Talisay	T-88519	22696	5,022	Agricultural	471,000
38	Bo. Bayuyungan, Talisay	T-88520	22697	20,241	Agricultural	1,992,850
39	Bo. Bayuyungan, Talisay	T-88517	22693	42,749	Agricultural	4,243,650
	BENGUET					
40	Sitio of Sabquil, Bo. Gatdang,, Itogon	T-46894	23445	26,800	Mix res'l/agri	804,000
	BULACAN					
41	Pitpitan, Bulacan	T-195985	T-55088	1,131	Agricultural lot	282,750
42	Tabang, Guiguinto	T-196599	T-294346	875	Residential/Commercial	13,051,453
43	Tabang, Guiguinto	T-196600	T-294347	755	Residential/Commercial	11,269,365
44	Tabang, Guiguinto	T-196601	T-260037	964	Residential/Commercial	14,388,844
45	Tabang, Guiguinto	T-196602	T-284235	503	Residential/Commercial	7,502,596
46	Bulihan, Malolos	T-195957	T-117150	208	Residential lot	291,200
47	Poblacion, Pulilan	T-196598	P-6211	1,042	Residential lot	6,189,350
48	Poblacion, Pulilan	T-196594	T-16882	407	Commercial w/ bank bldg	7,930,434
49	Poblacion, Pulilan	T-196595	T-16883	1,043	Residential lot	15,695,337
50	L1 B 2 Manila Newtown Subd. SJDM	T-405111	RT-5147	109,103	Recreational	109,103,000
51	E. G. Concepcion St. Guyong, Sta. Maria	T-409915-16	T-297847-48	1,419	Residential lot w/ Imp.	1,703,550
	CAGAYAN VALLEY					
52	A, Bonifacio St. Poblacion, Tuguegarao		133648 to 133650	372	Com'l w/ bank bldg	9,064,500
	CAVITE					
	Imus					
53	Gen. E. Aguinaldo Hiway, Tanzang Luma	T-1024189	T-575332	319	Com'l w/ 358 sqm imp	10,069,200
	Mendez					
54	Mendez	944522	344610	250	Com'l w/ 341 sqm bldg	1,600,000
	Naic					
55	L 5 B 4 Uniwide Sales Coastal City, Timalan	T-1024192	T-710499	1,001	Residential lot	2,802,800
	Ternate					
56	Cluster D-4 Ocean Villas Condo Puerto Azul	CT 1475	CT 898	233	Res'l condo unit	3,726,000
	ISABELA					
	Cauayan					
57	No. 86 Don Jose Canciller Ave., Dist.1	T-327312	T-286496	767	Com'l w/ 427 sqm imp.	5,638,900
58	Lot 9-1-4, Dist. 1 (Centro)	T-327313	T-266611	538	Residential lot	215,200
59	Lot 9-1-5, Dist. 1 (Centro)	T-327314	T-266610	539	Residential lot	215,600
	Santiago City					
60	Camacam St. cor. Tumanut St., Poblacion	307813	T-261643	618	Res'l/Commercial Lot	4,326,000
	ILOCOS SUR					
61	Lot 2, Prov'l Rd, Cabuloan, Sta. Catalina	T-41077	T-41076	709	Res'l w/ 239 sqm. imp	955,300
	LAGUNA					
	Calamba					
62	Lot 2137, Bo. Makiling **	529112		7,101	Industrial/Residential Lot	3,195,450
63	Lot 2133, Bo. Makiling **	529113		15,082	Industrial/Residential Lot	6,032,800
64	Lot 2, Bo. Makiling **	529114		21,520	Industrial/Residential Lot	8,608,000
65	Lot 2159, bo. Makiling **	529115		19,652	Industrial/Residential Lot	7,860,800
66	Lot 2158-B, Bo. Makiling **	529116		23,009	Industrial/Residential Lot	9,203,600
67	Lot 1-B-2 Barangay Real	529129		12,605	Industrial Lot	16,386,500
68	Real	472984	383946	334.33	Com'l w/ 1,204 sqm bldg	12,233,000
69	Brgy. Puling Lupa	T-465903	T-409447	32,781	Mix residential/agricultural	1,639,000
70	Bo. Maunong and Lamesa	T-465899	T-383577	2,634	Residential	1,054,000
71	Bo. Maunong and Lamesa	T-465900	T-409436	3,003	Residential	901,000
72	Bo. Maunong and Lamesa	T-465904	T-409446	2,500	Residential	750,000
73	Bo. Maunong and Lamesa	T-465901	T-409440	2,856	Residential	857,000
74	Bo. Maunong and Lamesa	T-465897	T-355402	5,998	Residential	2,399,000
75	Bo. Maunong and Lamesa	T-465898	T-364770	5,000	Residential	2,500,000
	Promenade					
76	Lot 2 Block 4	T-229450	T-192887	921	Residential Lot	5,157,600
77	Lot 1 Block 10	T-229451	T-192888	721	Residential Lot	4,037,600
	La Residencia de Sta. Rosa					
78	Lot 1 Block 20	T-229448	T-192885	170	Resl w/ 204 sqm imp	2,232,800
79	Lot 3 Block 20	T-229447	T-192884	180	Resl w/ 190 sqm imp	2,715,200
80	Lot 52 Block 20	T-229446	T-192883	210	Resl w/ 212 sqm imp	2,647,400
81	Lot 54 Block 20	T-229449	T-192886	210	Resl w/ 204 sqm imp	2,742,600
	San Pablo City					
82	Brgy. San Marcos, San Pablo City	53233	T-48094	7,837	Agricultural	391,850
83	Brgy. San Marcos, San Pablo City	53234	T-48095	4,159	Agricultural	207,950
84	Brgy. San Marcos, San Pablo City	53235	T-48096	25,945	Agricultural	1,297,250
85	Brgy. San Marcos, San Pablo City	53236	T-48097	16,125	Agricultural	1,612,500
86	Brgy. San Marcos, San Pablo City	53237	T-48098	6,079	Agricultural	607,900
	LUCENA CITY					
87	Lot 1-C-3-B Quezon Ave. Ext. Brgy Cotta	T-110914	T-92661	3,986	Ind'l/Com'l Lot w/ Imp	11,958,000
88	Lot 1182-B-2-E-7, Purok Ilang-ilang, Iyam	T-108143	T-92820	1,000	Residential lot	1,600,000
89	Lot 1182-A-1-C, Purok Ilang-ilang, Iyam	T-108144	T-92821	400	Residential lot	920,000
	NUEVA ECIJA					
	Cabanatuan City					
90	Lot 2215 Arenas St. Mayapyap Sur	T-108518	T-102612	595	Res'l w/ 251 sqm imp	1,941,700
91	Lot 16, Blk 3 , Monte Vista Subd.	T-108517	T-96002	237	Res'l w/ 100 sqm imp	213,300
92	Lot 13 Blk 8, Kahel St., Villa Benita Subd.	107030	104645	248	Res'l with 121 sqm impr	1,294,600
93	Lot 1411-W & 1412-B, Melencio cor. Paco	106867/68	99749/50	286	Com'l with 197sqm bank br	7,875,400
94	1147 T. Sora & North Drive, Mabini Ext	T-108883		197	Res'l w/ two-storey imp	1,262,000
95	Victoria Park Subd., Brgy. Bitas	T-108884		1,000	Res'l w/ one-storey imp	2,612,000
	Brgy. Kalidkid Sur					
96	Residential lots			12 lots	236 to 287 sq.m.	P350 persq.m.
	Guimba					
97	L 17 B 14 Señora Lane, Zulueta Subd.	T-28540	N-21632	330	Resl w/ 1221 sqm imp.	429,000
98	Prov. Rd nr Km Post 154, Guimba	N-28485 to 87	N-7959 to 61	5,640	Industrial lot w/ various Imp.	6,090,050
99	Lot 20 Blk 5, Zulueta Subd. Maturanok	N-28431	N-21633	206	Residential lot	144,000
	Sto. Domingo					
100	Lot 595, Magsaysay St., Sto. Rosario	N-28432	N-21630	2,015	Residential lot	564,200
101	Lot 89-C-2, Magsaysay St., Sto.Rosario	N-28433	N-21631	1,887	Residential lot	754,800
	San Leonardo					
102	Tambon, San Leonardo	277144	258515	270	Com'l w/ 152 sqm bldg	1,135,000
	PAMPANGA					
103	Lot 4 Blk 1,Mac Arthur Highway, Dau, Mabalacat	T-536193-R	T-503628-R	331	Com' lot w/ 188 sqm. bldg & 255 sqm 4-door aprtmnt bldg.	7,007,000
	PANGASINAN					
	Dagupan City					
104	Lot 2926-A-2-B-1 Arellano St., Pantal	78476		1,415	Residential/Commercial	8,634,200
105	Lot 7557-B-2 Bonuan Dist.	78477		5,649	Res'l w/ various imp.	3,133,750
106	Lot 3613-C-4 & 5, Careenan Dist.	78470 & 72		300	Res'l w/ 197 sq.m. imp	1,760,000
	QUEZON					
107	Lot 3519-A PLDT Road Brgy Ayuti, Lucban	T-409373	T-348760	1100	Res'l /Agri w/ 669 sqm piggery	660,000
	RIZAL					
	Cainta					
108	Eagle St. Valley Golf Subd., Nagpatong	R-27340		2,046	Residential Lot	4,092,000
109	35 Imperial & Gallego Sts, Vista Verde Vil	T-682331-32	639619-20	450	Res'l w/ 650 sqm imp	3,061,000
	Taytay					
110	L35 B2 Opal St. Palmera Homes Ph. II-B	681603	625806	160	Residential	1,278,000
	TARLAC					
111	Lot 3221-A-1, Mc Arthur Hiway Sta Cruz	T-362272	T-288270	906	Residential Lot	5,348,600
	VISAYAS					
	AKLAN					
	Banga					
1	Brgy. Mambog	30492	T-25885	2,581	Agricultural lot	258,000
	Kalibo					
2	Brgy. Andagao	30468	P-8991	200	Res'l w/ 192 sqm. Imp	416,000
3	J. Rizal & F. Ocampo St.	29750 & 51	246 & 247	485	Res'l/Com'l w/ 702 sqm bldg.	8,450,000
	Lezo					
4	Mabini St., Mina	30470	T-22891	790	Res'l w/ 65 sqm. Imp	118,000
	Libacao					
5	Brgy. Julita	30490	T-12841	15,140	Agricultural lot	45,000
	New Washington					
6	Poblacion	30489	T-11120	210	Residential lot	252,000
7	Poblacion	30481 & 82	11111 & 13	420	Res'l w/ 150 sq.m imp	1,190,000
	Numancia					
8	Aliputos	30484	P-18534	4,766	Res'l/Agri'l w/ 42 sqm Imp.	1,005,000
	CEBU					
	Cebu City					
9	Cebu Veterans Drive, Busay 1/	159067	120473	450	Residential	360,000
10	Cebu Veterans Drive, Busay 2/	158986	118205	27	Residential	14,000
11	Cebu Veterans Drive, Busay	158984	113219	427	Residential	256,000
12	Cebu Veterans Drive, Busay 3/	159389	120472	227	Residential	136,000
	Compostela					
13	Km Post 24, Poblacion	TP-18813	TP-12734	14,505	Res'l w/ 152 sqm imp	8,882,000
14	Lot No. 2-C Estaca	TP-18816	TP-4697	4,365	Agro-Ind'l or res'l lot	436,000
15	Cabadiangan Rd. Bale-bale	TP-18815	T-10950	2,751	Agricultural	550,000
16	Cabadiangan Rd. Bale-bale	TP-18814	T-10551	4,580	Agricultural	916,000
	Minglanilla					
17	Brgy Ward III	T-115983	T-97029	6,502	Agro-Industrial lot	1,951,000
	Lilo-an					
18	Lot 1102 Brgy Calero	TP-18818	TP-6253	7,483	for resort development	1,443,000
	NEGROS OCCIDENTAL					
	Bacolod City					
19	27th Street, Dist. Mandalagan	T-275731 to 35	T-265669 to 73	3,632	Ind'l lot w/ various imp.	20,006,000
20	27th Street, Dist. Mandalagan	T- 275736 to 37	T-265674 to 75	1,446	Com'l lot w/ various imp.	9,192,000
21	Camper St., St. Francis Vill., Taculing	T-275738 to 39	T-265686 to 67	257	Res'l w/ 228 sq.m. imp	1,967,000
22	Lacson Avenue 4/	263863	225724	1,190	Commercial	8,000,000
23	Lizares and Jovita Ave.	263862	225723	604	Commercial	4,824,000
24	Jovita Ave.	263861	225722	603	Commercial	4,832,000
25	Blk 22 Ramylu Subd., Tangub 5/	264025	100976	5,198	Res'l w/ 60 sq.m imp	1,244,000
26	Km Post 110-111, Brgy. Sum-ag	264024	T-200440	629	Residential lot	252,000
	Villa Mercedes Townhomes, Brgy. Tangub					
27	Townhouse Units	29 units		50 to 67 sq.m.		P1,900 to P2,170 /sq.m.
	Bago City					
28	Mabini St. Poblacion Ma-ao	27663	23461	543	Res'l w/ 50 sq.m imp	255,000
29	Araneta St. cor. Poblacion St.,	27667	14526	828	Com'l w/ bank branch	3,942,000
30	Purok Sn. Francisco, Brgy. Busay	27664	22428	3,750	Agricultural	75,000
	Hinigaran					
31	Brgy. Calapi	206278	T-175443	19,276	Agricultural	193,000
32	Brgy. Calapi	206279	T-175444	20,000	Agricultural	197,000
33	Brgy. Himaya	207322	T-178414	12,703	Agricultural	127,000
34	Brgy. Himaya	207323	T-178415	12,703	Agricultural	127,000
	La Carlota City					
35	Ogalis St., Brgy III	7624	T-5225	650	Residential lot	390,000
36	Lots 30 to 32 Uriarte Subd.	7625 to 27	5259 to 61	1,634	Res'l w/ 180 sq.m imp	2,167,000
	Pontevedra					
37	Brgy. Pandan	207325	T-175439	72,818		437,000
38	Brgy. Pandan	207326	T-175441	53,423		534,000
39	Sitio Lindero, Brgy, Antipolo	207327	T-175442	10,664		85,000
	Talisay					
40	Along Rd Lot 2 & 4 , Bo. Matab-ang, Talisay	T-220387	T-207387	1,000	Commercial lot	3,500,000
41	Along Rd Lot 2 & 4 , Bo. Matab-ang, Talisay	T-220388	T-207388	1,000	Commercial lot	3,500,000
42	Along Rd Lot 2 & 4 , Bo. Matab-ang, Talisay	T-220389	T-207389	1,205	Commercial lot	6,627,500
	Valladolid					
43	Brgy Pacol, Zone 4	207328	T-175447	2,013	Agricultural	40,000
	MINDANAO					
	CAGAYAN DE ORO					
1	Mercury St., Mega Heights Subd., Gusa	T-163457		120	Res'l w/ one-storey imp	351,000
2	Osmena St. Ext., Lapasan 6/	156181 to 82	144925 to 26	2,000	Com'l lot w/ various imp.	22,283,070
3	Barangay Cugman 7/	159418 - 22	151322 - 26	2,243	For Beach Resort dev.	2,004,000
4	3rd St, San Isidro Vill. Gusa 8/	T-156180	T-144924	520	Res'l lot w/ 108 sq.m. imp.	926,000
5	Madrid St, Puerto Heights Vill. Puerto	T-156186	T-135477	764	Residential lot (vacant)	2,444,800
6	Rd Lot 7, PN Roa Subd. Canito-an	T-156183	T-146147	377	Res'l lot w/ 181 sq.m. imp.	1,640,400
7	Agbalog Comp. Bo. Macasandig	T-156188	T-144927	662	Res'l lot w/ 137 sq.m. Imp.	1,801,400
8	Pres. Garcia St., Dist. Of Lapasan **	T-80433		1,560	Residential lot	1,282,000
9	Lot 3794-C V. Castro Ext., Carmen **	T-80429		1,000	Residential lot	405,140
10	Lot 3794-D V. Castro Ext., Carmen **	T-80430		1,000	Residential lot	405,140
11	Lot 3794-E, V. Castro Ext., Carmen **	T-80431		1,000	Residential lot	405,140
12	Lot 3794-F-1, V. Castro Ext. Carmen **	T-80432		1,354	Residential lot	548,580
13	Kahambalugan cor. A. Velez Sts.	142217 to 26	114242 to 51	440	com'l w/ 797 sqm bldg	12,885,000
	COTABATO CITY					
14	Lot 2521, Sultan Makakua St. Poblacion	T-42799	T-39709	608	Commercial Lot	9,120,000
	DAVAO CITY					
15	Lot 29 and 31, Block 8, Skyline Subd.	354604 to 05	329241 to 42	679	Res'l w/ 261 sq.m. imp.	973,600
16	Nat'l Hiway, Brgy. Panacan, Bunawan	T-354606	T-331162	8,971	Industrial w/ 1,385 sq.m. bldg.	13,555,500
17	C.M. Recto Ave., Brgy. 35, Poblacion	T-354616	T-331168	447	Res'l lot w/ 2 com'l bldgs.	15,576,000
18	Brgy 19, Poblacion	T-354614	T-316704	638	Residential lot	287,100
19	Doña Paz Subd. Sasa, Buhangin	T-354615	T-316874	2,967	Residential lot	2,492,280
	Landco-PDCP Corporate Centre J. P. Laurel Avenue, Pryce Business Park					
19	Commercial Condo Units	34 units		49 to 198 sq.m.		P47 T to P51 T / sq.m.
20	Parking Slots	27 slots		12.5		P350 T to P375 T / slot
	MISAMIS ORIENTAL					
21	Brgy. Natumulan, Tagoloan 9/	T-36993	T-34607	19,955	Industrial lot w/ var imp.	15,498,000
	GENERAL SANTOS CITY					
22	Lot 5-B, Neptune St., Villa Consuelo Subd.	98632	93654	2,875	Res'l w/ perimeter fence	4,312,500
23	Lot 15-C, Aslin Village Road, New Bohol	98638	94178	600	Residential/Industrial lot	180,000
24	Pioneer St., Bo. Dadiangas	T-55456		464	Com'l w/ 197 sqm. bldg	12,167,000
25	Solomon Subd., Lagao	91900	T-78204	10,000	Agricultural	6,000,000
26	Brgy. Tambler	T-91660	27142	621,376	Agricultural	62,138,000
27	Makar-Siguel Road, Brgy Tambler	13 lots		14.6 has	Ind'l & Light com'l	P1-2T / sq.m.
	ZAMBOANGA DE SUR					
28	Diversion Road, Brgy. Dao,Pagadian City	T-25132-33	T-25017-18	1,576	Residential Lot	1,418,400

** With illegal settlers

1/ - Total area reduced from 1,028 sqm to 450 sqm because of the DPWH road widening project

2/ - Total area reduced from 1,030 sqm to 27 sqm because of the DPWH road widening project

3/ - Total area reduced from 714 sqm to 227 sqm because of the DPWH road widening project

4/ - Net Usable Area is 1,000 sq.m., 190 sq.m, forms part of Lizares Ave.

5/ - Includes 1,050 sq.m, which formed part of Matahum Medel Road

6/ Net Usable Area due to legal easement along Bitan-ag Creek 1,887.23 sq.m.

7/ Net Usable Area due to salvage zone along the shoreline of Macalajar Bay 1,670 sq.m.

8/ Without Right-of-Way (ROW). FMV is net of acquisition cost for a 25 m. long ROW of P206,250.00

9/ Net Usable Area due to existence of Brgy. Road 19,396 sq.m.

Deadline for submission of duly accomplished bid forms enclosed in sealed envelopes shall be on 28 September 2005, 10:00 A.M., at Rm. 313, Five-Storey Bldg, BSP Complex, A. Mabini St., Malate, Manila. All bids will be opened immediately after the deadline for submission of bids at the Executive Business Center (EBC), Visayas and Mindanao Room, BSP Complex.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

1. The Buyer is deemed to have inspected the property.
2. The sale of the properties shall be "As is, Where is" and the winning bidder shall undertake the responsibility to acquire and maintain peaceful possession and enjoyment of the property without seeking the assistance of the BSP.
3. The BSP reserves the right to withdraw any or all of the properties offered for sale at any time before the deadline for submission of offers, and to reject any or all bids or to waive any infirmity found therein, or to accept such offers as will be considered advantageous to the BSP.
4. The Committee will immediately start accepting offers for negotiation, in the event of a failed bidding, and will continue to accept offers through the Asset Management Department. However, the Committee may at its discretion, elect to conclude the negotiation immediately after failure of bidding whenever there is a highest complying offeror ascertained.
5. Offerors at the Public Bidding must tender a BID BOND equivalent to 10% of the offered price and offerors under the negotiated sale basis must submit an EARNEST MONEY equivalent to 10% of the negotiated price either in CASH or CASHIER's/MANAGER's CHECK payable to the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas which shall form part of the consideration once the offer is approved by the Monetary Board.

Complete description of the properties, rules and regulations on the bidding procedures and the prescribed bid forms are available for a minimal fee of P50.00 at the Asset Management Department, Rm. 313, Five-Storey Bldg. through the following:

	Direct Line	Trunk Line: 524-70-11
Ms. Louella Veloro	523-34-86	loc. 2857
Ms. Geraldine Tarlengco	404-21-14	loc. 2857
Ms. Frances Necitas Lim	536-56-36	loc. 2835
Ms. Ma. Cristina Samano	523-34-20	loc. 2381

(Sgd.) MELPIN A. GONZAGA
Committee Chairman

(PDI – September 14, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
Pacific Center Building, San Miguel Avenue
Ortigas Center, Pasig City

IN THE MATTER OF THE ADOPTION OF THE INCREMENTAL CURRENCY EXCHANGE RATE ADJUSTMENT (ICERA)

ERC CASE NO. 2005-_______

NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION (NPC) and POWER SECTOR ASSETS AND LIABILITIES MANAGEMENT CORPORATION (PSALM),
Applicants.

x---x

APPLICATION

Applicants **NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION (NPC) and POWER SECTOR ASSETS AND LIABILITIES MANAGEMENT CORPORATION (PSALM)**, by undersigned counsels and to this Honorable Commission, most respectfully state that:

1. Applicant NPC is a government-owned and controlled corporation, created and existing under and by virtue of Republic Act No. 6395, as amended, (the NPC Charter) with principal office address at NPC-Office Building Complex (NPC-OBC), corner Quezon Avenue and BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City.

2. Applicant PSALM is a government-owned and controlled corporation, created and existing by virtue of Republic Act No. 9136 or the "Electric Power Industry Reform Act of 2001" (EPIRA), with principal office address at 2/F SGV II Building, Ayala Avenue, Makati City.

3. This Application is a joint filing between applicants NPC and PSALM. Applicant NPC is filing this Application in its capacity as the owner of record of all existing assets and energy, and as mandated under its Charter, to undertake the development of hydroelectric generation of power and the production of electricity from nuclear, geothermal and other sources of energy in order to attain, among others, the objective of providing an adequate supply and a reasonable price for electric power nationwide. Applicant PSALM is filing this Application in its capacity as administrator of applicant NPC and the transferee and owner of NPC assets pursuant to Section 49 of R. A. 9136.

4. In the Order dated February 24, 2003, the Honorable Commission issued and adopted the Implementing Rules for the Incremental Currency Exchange Rate Adjustment (ICERA) providing, among others, the required mechanisms for the recovery/(refund) of the deferred incremental costs/(savings) on foreign currency exchange rate fluctuations and carrying charges.

5. The Application covers the billing period from October 2004 to March 2005 (the 4th ICERA filing). Applicants have complied with the ICERA's monthly reportorial requirements as evidenced by the submitted reports duly marked as received and hereto attached as **Annex "A" and series.**

6. The Application seeks to recover/(refund) the Deferred Accounting Adjustments (DAAs) and corresponding carrying charges on the Debt Service; other operating expenses (OPEX); Actual Payments of Capacity and Infrastructure Fees for the billing period October 2004 to March 2005 for the Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao grids, including the estimated balance of the ERC-approved DAA under the 3rd ICERA as of September 26, 2005.

7. The ICERA DAA charge for the Debt Service component and other OPEX is the same for all grids. This is pursuant to the Honorable Commission's resolution on the 3rd ICERA application dated April 13, 2005 which states that computation of DAA on a per grid basis will eliminate the cross-subsidization between grids, but this would only be true if there is a proper allocation of NPC's debt between grids. The Commission believes that the proper venue for evaluating the allocation factor in segregating NPC's debts on a per grid basis should not be in the ICERA filing but in a major rate case application (e. g. RORB).

8. In this application, the Base Exchange Rates used in the calculation of the 4th ICERA DAA for other OPEX has been updated based on the average figure in CY 2002, from P44.0494/US$1 to P51.5811/US$1 and P0.4096/JPY1 to P0.4128/JPY1, considering that existing generation charges since October 2004 are based on Return on Rate Base (RORB) with Time of Use (TOU) rates with test year CY 2002. However, Base Exchange Rates for Debt Service are maintained at the CY 2000 level pending resolution by the Honorable Commission of the Motion for Clarification that will be filed by applicants on the final decision on RORB-TOU application, specifically the disallowance of the Loss on FOREX Fluctuations.

9. The costs for Bakun and San Roque were included in the recovery of DAAs under Actual Capacity and Infrastructure Fees component, in accordance with the ERC Provisional Authorities (PAs) issued for Bakun and San Roque, both dated November 26, 2004, approving the inclusion of said costs in the fuel and purchased power costs. Actual Capacity and Infrastructure Fees for Bakun and San Roque were calculated using the rate of P3.9211/kWh, which is the existing generation rate for the Luzon grid plus Franchise and Benefits to Host Communities (FBHC) pursuant to the Commission's final decision on RORB-TOU Application dated April 13, 2005. The rate of P3.9211/kWh was used in lieu of the P3.8299/kWh, as stated in the Bakun and San Roque PAs, which were based on the then existing generation rate (PA on RORB-TOU) plus FBHC, pending ERC resolution on the Motion for Clarification filed by applicants on February 4, 2005 on the said PA.

10. The calculated ICERA DAA shall be billed on top of the existing generation charge based on the approved RORB-TOU application. Pursuant to the Implementing Rules of the ICERA, Applicants propose to recover the following deferred FOREX adjustments and the corresponding carrying charges based on the BSP-established 91-day Treasury Bills rates plus 3%, through the 4th ICERA DAA for Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao grids for the period October 2004 to March 2005:

I. CURRENT DAA in PhP

	Luzon	*Visayas*	*Mindanao*	*Phils*
A. DEBT SERVICE & OPEX				
1) *Principal*				
Debt Service	1,524,660,000.46	320,066,862.79	172,344,828.45	2,017,071,691.70
Opex	41,852,457.21	10,472,953.51	25,053.41	52,350,464.13
	1,566,512,457.67	330,539,816.31	172,369,881.86	2,069,422,155.83
2) *Carrying Charges:*				
Debt Service	42,944,440.49	11,705,415.22	6,602,123.50	61,251,979.21
Opex	1,417,761.58	357,714.59	1,079.61	1,776,555.78
	44,362,202.07	12,063,129.81	6,603,203.11	63,028,534.99
	1,610,874,659.73	342,602,946.12	178,973,084.97	2,132,450,690.82
B. ACTUAL PAYMENTS OF CAPACITY FEES				
Principal	(1,735,285,251.31)		(43,570,335.21)	(1,778,855,586.52)
Carrying Charge	(109,282,681.29)		(1,391,105.18)	(110,673,786.47)
Sub-Total	(1,844,567,932.60)	-	(44,961,440.39)	(1,889,529,372.99)
C. TOTAL				
Debt Service	1,567,604,440.94	331,772,278.02	178,946,951.95	2,078,323,670.91
Opex	43,270,218.79	10,830,668.10	26,133.03	54,127,019.92
Actual Payments of Capacity Fee	(1,844,567,932.60)	-	(44,961,440.39)	(1,889,529,372.99)
Total	**(233,693,272.87)**	**342,602,946.12**	**134,011,644.59**	**242,921,317.84**

II. ESTIMATED BALANCE OF 3rd ICERA DAA IN PhP

	Luzon	*Visayas*	*Mindanao*	*Phils*
A. DEBT SERVICE & OPEX				
1) *Principal*				
Debt Service				(1,114,003,500.07)
Opex				(913,724,634.59)
	-	-	-	(2,027,728,134.66)
2) *Carrying Charges:*				
Debt Service				(135,976,940.91)
Opex				(111,244,737.10)
	-	-	-	(247,221,678.01)
	-	-	-	(2,274,949,812.67)
B. ACTUAL PAYMENTS OF CAPACITY FEES				
Principal without Carrying Charge	8,953,461,441.23		19,172,234.04	8,972,633,675.27
Principal with Carrying Charge	12,842,078,942.73		324,270,649.56	13,166,349,592.28
Carrying Charge	1,412,400,740.68		35,926,037.87	1,448,326,778.54
Sub-Total	23,207,941,124.63	-	379,368,921.46	23,587,310,046.09
C. TOTAL				
Debt Service				(1,249,980,440.98)
Opex				(1,024,969,371.69)
Actual Payments of Capacity Fee				23,587,310,046.09
Total	-	-	-	**21,312,360,233.42**

III. GRAND TOTAL

Debt Service				828,343,229.93
Other Opex				(970,842,351.77)
Actual Payments of Capacity Fee				21,697,780,673.11
	-	-	-	**21,555,281,551.26**

In support of the amounts comprising the DAA, attached hereto are the various computations and information on the following:

Calculation of Deferred Debt Service /OPEX and corresponding carrying charges, Oct. 2004 to March 2005	**Annex "B" and series**
Calculation of estimated balance of the previous DAA (Debt Service/OPEX) as of September 26, 2005	**Annex "C" and series**
Calculation of Deferred Over/(Under) Recovered Actual Payments of Capacity Fees for IPPs under BOT Agreement	**Annex "D" and series**
Calculation of estimated balance of the previous DAA (Actual Payments of Capacity Fees for IPPs under BOT Agreement), as of September 26, 2005	**Annex "E" and series**
91-day Treasury Bills Rate for October 2004 to March 2005	**Annex "F" and series**
Actual energy sales from October 2004 to March 2005	**Annex "G" and series**

11. Applicants NPC and PSALM hereby propose that they be allowed to refund the Deferred Savings in the Debt Service and other OPEX over projected energy sales for three (3) months, starting October 2005 up to December 2005 in all grids. On the other hand, Deferred Charges in Actual Payments of Capacity and Infrastructure Fees are proposed to be recovered over projected energy sales for thirty six (36) months covering the period October 2005 to September 2008 in all grids. Applicants are proposing a longer recovery period for Actual Payments of Capacity and Infrastructure Fees in order to mitigate the financial impact on power customers, considering the simultaneous increases in prices of basic commodities.

12. The projected energy sales (in kWh) are based on the approved NPC CY 2005 Budget for CYs 2005 to 2007 and previous data submissions for CY 2008 which are attached hereto as **Annex "H"**.

13. The proposed 4th ICERA DAA was reviewed and approved by the National Power Board in its Resolution No. 2005-33 dated August 22, 2005, a copy of which is attached hereto as **Annex "I"**. The same was also approved by the PSALM Board in Resolution No. 05-79 dated August 31, 2005, a copy of which is attached hereto and made an integral part hereof as **Annex "J"**.

14. The calculation of the proposed DAA under 4th ICERA is attached as **Annex "K" and series**. The proposed DAA rate under 4th ICERA, which shall be recoverable on top of the approved RORB-TOU rates, are as follows:

Particulars	Luzon	Visayas	Mindanao
Proposed 4th ICERA DAA, P/kWh	0.2369	(0.0151)	(0.0013)
Debt Service & OPEX	(0.0151)	(0.0151)	(0.0151)
Actual Payments of Capacity & Infrastructure Fees	0.2520	-	0.0138

15. Applicants noted that the Honorable Commission, in its Decision dated April 13, 2005 in ERC Case No. 2004-178 (RORB-TOU rate application), totally disallowed the inclusion of the Gain/Loss on FOREX Fluctuations in the revenue requirement calculation. This being the case, applicants would like to manifest their intention to file for a base ICERA rate for the debt service component in the next ICERA application. The base ICERA rate shall be calculated based on the allowable FOREX loss or gain, as the case may be, on debt service for the billing months covered by the said ICERA filing. The applicants believe that the establishment of a base ICERA charge would be beneficial to both the applicants and the customers. For the applicants, having a base ICERA charge would definitely improve cash flows as they are partly protected from the impact of FOREX fluctuations significantly affecting foreign currency-denominated loan repayments. On the other hand, having a base ICERA rate would mean lower DAAs and carrying charges in the future for NPC/PSALM customers, resulting from lower carrying charges.

16. The proposed ICERA DAA is fair and reasonable as it allows the recovery of deferred costs consistent with the principles of a free and competitive electricity market as provided under R. A. No. 9136.

17. Pursuant to Section 4 (e) of Rule 3 of the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of R. A. No. 9136, attached hereto are the following jurisdictional requirements:
    a. Acknowledgement receipt of the application and supporting documents issued by the City Secretary of the Sangguniang Panlungsod of Quezon City as **Annex "L"**;
    b. Certification issued by the City Secretary of the Sangguniang Panlungsod of the City of Makati as **Annex "M"**;
    c. Copies of Certifications of the Publication of the Application from two (2) newspapers of general circulation in the Philippines, as **Annexes "N" and "O"**.

PRAYER

WHEREFORE, it is most respectfully prayed that the Honorable Commission issue an order APPROVING the proposed 4th ICERA DAA for Debt Service and OPEX of (P0.0151)/kWh for all the grids, which shall be refunded for three (3) months and DAA for Actual Payments of Capacity and Infrastructure Fees of P0.2520/kWh for Luzon Grid and P0.0138/kWh for Mindanao grid, which shall be recovered for thirty six (36) months.

Applicants further pray for all other relief just and equitable under the premises.

Quezon City for Pasig City, 08 September, 2005.

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VERIFICATION AND CERTIFICATION

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
QUEZON CITY) S.S.

I, **CYRIL C. DEL CALLAR** of legal age, married with office address at NPC Office Building Complex, corner Quezon Avenue and BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City, after having been sworn to in accordance with law, hereby depose and state that:

1. I am the Presient and Chief Executive Officer of the National Power Corporation, one of the applicants herein;
2. I have caused the preparation of the foregoing Application and that I have read and understood the allegations contained therein and that they are true and correct to my personal knowledge; and
3. I have not heretofore commenced any action or filed any claim involving the same issues in any court, tribunal or quasi-judicial agency and, to the best of my knowledge, no such other action or claim is pending therein; and that if I should thereafter learn that the same or similar action or claim has been filed or is pending in any court, tribunal or quasi-judicial agency, I hereby undertake to report the same within five (5) days therefore to this Commission.

Quezon City for Pasig City, Philippines. September, 2005.

CYRIL C. DEL CALLAR
Affiant

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO before me this **12th day of September 2005**, affiant CYRIL C. DEL CALLAR presented to me his Community Tax Certificate No. 18199742 issued on March 4, 2005 at Makati City, known to me and to me known to be the same person who executed the foregoing Verification and Certification.

Notary Public

NATALIA OLIVERIO-GUINTO
NOTARY PUBLIC UNTIL DECEMBER 31, 2005
IBP LIFETIME NO. 2715
PTR NO. 6049150

Doc. No. 144
Page No. 29
Book No. IV
Series of 2005

VERIFICATION AND CERTIFICATION

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
QUEZON CITY) S.S.

I, **NIEVES L. OSORIO**, of legal age, Filipino, single, with office address at 2/F SGV II Building, Ayala Avenue, Makati City, after having been sworn to in accordance with law, hereby depose and state that:

1. I am the Presient and Chief Executive Officer of the National Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corporation, one of the applicants herein;
2. I have caused the preparation of the foregoing Application and that I have read and understood the allegations contained therein and that they are true and correct to my personal knowledge; and
3. I have not heretofore commenced any action or filed any claim involving the same issues in any court, tribunal or quasi-judicial agency and, to the best of my knowledge, no such other action or claim is pending therein; and that if I should thereafter learn that the same or similar action or claim has been filed or is pending in any court, tribunal or quasi-judicial agency, I hereby undertake to report the same within five (5) days therefore to this Commission.

Makati City, Philippines. September 12, 2005.

NIEVES L. OSORIO
Affiant

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO before me this **12th day of September 2005**, affiant NIEVES L. OSORIO presented to me his Community Tax Certificate No. 14023375 issued on June 9, 2005 at Manila, known to me and to me known to be the same person who executed the foregoing Verification and Certification.

Notary Public

CECILIO B. GELLADA, JR.
Notary Public Until December 31, 2006
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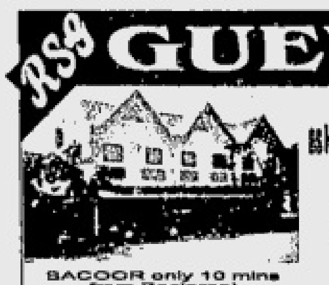

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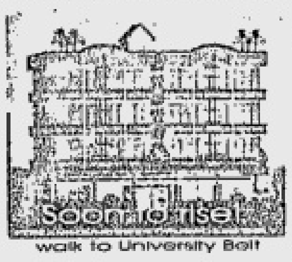

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141 Batangas West Ayala Alabang 5BR 5TB w/s-pool 0926-7102225

MAKATI

4BR HOUSE W GARAGE 6075 PALMA ROCKWELL MKT T-8706706

MARIKINA

4BR Bung. 3TB 3Pkg Rancho2 632-1531 Puri

QUEZON CITY

600m² 4BR 4CAR 634-1212

CAVITE

MOLINO, Semi Furnshd P6500/ MO 2BR,T&B,GRGE 0920-6337953

CONDO/TWNHSE

MAKATI

SALCEDO / LEGASPI 1-2-3BR P15-90T/mo 8896475 ; 4796

APARTMENT

MANILA

652 M Cristina Samp 09174529165

PASAY

FURNISHED STUDIO 8872865

ROOM & BOARD

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Windsor Inn Maceda St near 7-11 Dimasalang, Mla 7118679, 7836781

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LOAN & MORTGAGE

1.4% MONTHLY 8976644-46 LAS PINAS 8054326 / 6342 QUEZON CITY 3730239-40 CAINTA/PASIG 2401300/3500 LLOYDS FINANCING CORP.

BUSINESS , DOCTOR 524-3197

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COMM'L/OFFICE SPACES FOR LEASE (58m² - 627m²) 8876003

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COMMERCIAL/ RESIDENTIAL

BETTER LIVING SUBD. P'QUE 5252761 / 5249540 / 8242943

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MITSUBISHI

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Republic of the Philippines
COMMISSION ON AUDIT
Regional Office No. III
City of San Fernando, Pampanga

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Procurement of Asian Utility Vehicles

1. The Commission on Audit (COA) Regional Office No. III intends to apply the sum of Four Million Pesos (P4,000,000.00) being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the Procurement of five (5) units of Asian Utility Vehicles for delivery within 10 calendar days from receipt of the Notice to Proceed. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid Opening.
2. Interested Bidders may obtain a complete set of Bidding Documents starting September 14 to September 21, 2005 upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Five Hundred Pesos (P500.00) from the BAC Secretariat, c/o Ms. Rowena R. Henson, Administrative Services, COA Regional Office No. III, Government Center, Maimpis, City of San Fernando, Pampanga.
3. The COA Regional Office No. III will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on 1:30 P.M., September 22, 2005 at the 3rd Floor, Regional Training Center, COA Regional Office III Compound, City of San Fernando, Pampanga.
4. Deadline for submission of Bids shall be on October 4, 2005, 1:30 P.M. at the 3rd Floor, Regional Training Center, COA Regional Office III Compound, City of San Fernando, Pampanga. Immediately after the deadline, bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the aforesaid address.
5. The Commission on Audit reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding proces, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Contact Person.
Ms. Rowena R. Henson, Head, BAC Secretariat
c/o Administrative Services, COA Regional Office No. III
Government Center, Maimpis, City of San Fernando, Pampanga 2000
Telephone no.: (045) 963-6114 Telefax No.: (045) 961-5139
Email address: bac_ro3@yahoo.com website: coa.gov.ph

(Sgd.) FLAVIA S. BLEZA
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(Sept. 14 & 20, 2005)

TENDER

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On the instructions of Colegio San Agustin

SEALED BIDDING

CENTRALIZED AIR CONDITIONING SYSTEM

Location of Assets: Palm Avenue, Dasmarinas Village, Makati City
Deadline of Submission of Bids: Wednesday, 21 September 2005
12:00noon (local time)

Consisting of: -
(2) Kyungwon Century Screw Water Chiller; (2) Aquavane Pumps;
(19) Kyungwon Century Air Blowers Standing Type/Ceiling Mounted Type

Inspection: On Saturdays - 10th & 17th September 2005
Strictly by Appointment
For further information please contact Obert Cinco at
Tel: 852 2910 loc. 111 Email: obert.cinco@henrybutcher.com

GoIndustry Henry Butcher
HENRY BUTCHER INTERNATIONAL PHILS, INC.
Rm. 102 Jolliland Bldg., 670 Edsa, Pasay City
Tel No.: 852 2910/11 or 854 4917-19 Fax No.: 831 9507
E-mail:manila@henrybutcher.com

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CARS FOR RENT

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Starex CRV MB100 9483535

P800/L3 9136710 / 4333682

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1.5% Auto Easy 5344441

1.5% Auto Express 5221001

1.5% CARLOAN 373-6519

1.5% CARLOAN 788-0361

1.6% Easy Car Loan 4112547/48

1.5% Easy Car Loan 3748765

1.5% Easy Carloan 7815352/55

1.5% Easy Carloan 7815352/55

1.5% w/oTaking Car 7228942-43

1.5% w/oTaking Car 7228942-43

1.5% w/oTaking Car 3850974/75

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

CAR LOAN

1Hour Car Loan 9153460 2%w/o taking car 6560140

2% w/o taking car 7880183-84

2% w/oTaking Car 8870490/95

2% w/oTaking Car 3732081/82

2% w/oTaking Car 8966630/33

2% w/oTaking Car 7221021

2% w/oTaking Car 8966630/33

2% w/oTaking Car 8959454

2% w/out taking car 5315577

2% w/out taking car 7262780

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AUDIO/ VIDEO

Harman Kardon Receiver 330model P28T 0917-8664346

PETS

DOG TRAINER 0919-7219020

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PETS

Exclnt Dog Sch 0919-2050952

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PUBLIC NOTICES

AUCTION SALE

MEYCAUAYAN-FILIPINAS Pawnshop, Alw Complex, Calvario, Meyc. Bulacan. All unredeemed pledges of MARCH 2005 will be auctioned on SEPT 24, 8.30 am Lanuza & Sons-Auctioneer (PDI SEPT. 14, 2005)

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT

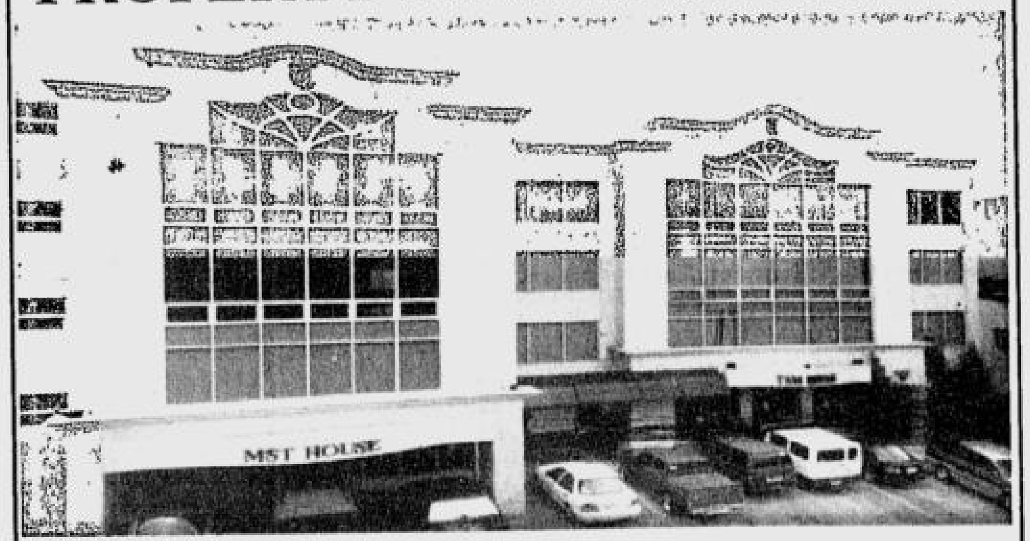
REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT

PROPERTY FOR LEASE / SALE



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TransCo
National Transmission Corporation

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

Schedule I

Construction of Hazardous Waste Shelter including Relocation of Stockfiled, Tower Parts and Line Hardwares at SO Hermosa Warehouse, Hermosa, Bataan

Schedule II

Rehabilitation of Mexico RF and Construction of Shade at ITASD Workshop and Water Treatment Facility Shelter

(Reference No.: PB050720–LE0080)

1. The National Transmission Corporation (TransCo), through the CY 2005 Corporate Budget approved by the TransCo Board intends to apply the sum of P457,979.82 and P1,837,700.73 for Schedules I and II respectively being the Approved Budget for Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the above requirement. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.
2. TransCo now calls for the submission of Letter of Intent (LOI) form potential Bidders to apply for eligibility for **Schedule I – Construction of Hazardous Waste Shelter including Relocation of Stockfiled, Tower Parts and Line Hardwares at SO Hermosa Warehouse, Hermosa, Bataan and Schedules II – Rehabilitation of Mexico RF and Construction of Shade at ITASD Workshop and Water Treatment/Demineralizer Facility Shelter.** Bidders should possess a valid PCAB license applicable to the above type and cost of the contract (at least Registered as "Small A", Category "Trade" for Schedule I and Registered as "Small B". Category "C & D" for Schedule II), have completed a similar contract with a value of at least fifty percent (50%) of the ABC, and meet the other minimum eligibility requirements stated in the Eligibility Documents. Interested bidders must submit their LOI's from **September 14, 2005 to September 27, 2005** at the address below and secure the Eligibility Documents there from upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **ONE THOUSAND pesos (P1,000.00).** Applications for eligibility will be evaluated on a "pass/fail" basis. The last day for the submission of the accomplished Eligibility Documents shall be on the date of the opening of Eligibility Documents: **September 28, 2005 at 3:30 PM** at the address below. Only those Bidders passing the eligibility check will be entitled to purchase the Bidding Documents.
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted, unless otherwise stated, to organizations with at least seventy-five percent (75%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines. In accordance with the IRR-A of R.A. 9184, only Bids from eligible Bidders will be opened. In accordance with the IRR-A of R.A 9184 a contract will only be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder who was determined as such during post-qualification
4. Interested Bidders shall submit their accomplished Eligibility Documents to the BAC Secretariat at the Ground Floor, TransCo Main Building, Power Center, Quezon Avenue Corner BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City on or before **3:30 PM of September 28, 2005.**
5. Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from TransCo and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from **8:00 AM to 5:00 PM on October 10, 2005 to November 04, 2005.**
6. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by Bidders that passed the eligibility check upon the presentation of the Notice of Eligibility to the BAC Secretariat, at the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **TWO THOUSAND pesos (P2,000.00).** The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the bidder or his authorized representative from **October 10, 2005 to November 04, 2005.**
7. TransCo will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all Eligible Bidders on **2:00 PM of October 24, 2005** at the following address, Admin. Conference Room, Ground Floor, TransCo Main Building, Power Center, Quezon Avenue Corner BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City.
8. Eligible Bidders must submit their Bids at the address below on or before **2:00 PM of November 07, 2005.** All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in any of the following form:

Form of Security	Minimum Amount in % of Approved Budget for the Contract to be Bid
1 Cash, certified check, cashier's check, manager's check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit	One percent (1%) or at least P4,579.80 and P 18,377.91 for Schedules I and II respectively
2. Bank guarantee	One and a half percent (1 1/2%) or at least P6,869.70 and P27,566.86 for Schedules I and II respectively
3. Surety bond	Two and a half percent (2 1/2%) or at least P 11,449.50 and P45,944.77 for Schedules I and II respectively
4. Foreign government guarantee	One hundred Percent (100%) or at least P457,979.82 and P1,837,790.73 for Schedules I and II respectively

Late Bids shall not be accepted. Bid opening shall be on **2:00 PM of November 07, 2005** at the Admin Conference Room, Ground Floor, TransCo Main Building, Power Center, Quezon Avenue Corner BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below at **2:00 PM of November 07, 2005.**

9. Completion of the Works is required by sixty (60) and ninety (90) calendar days for Schedules I and II respectively from receipt of the approved Purchase Order/contract/notice to proceed.
10. TransCo reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Bids and Awards Committee (BAC)
National Transmission Corporation (TransCo)
Materials Management Division (MMD)
Ground Floor, TransCo Main Building,
Power Center, Quezon Avenue corner BIR Road,
Diliman, Quezon City

Tel. No.: (632) 981-2205 / 981-2241
Email: jadarilay@transco.ph
ellogronio@transco.ph
Fax No. (632) 922-8432/921-6753
Website: www.transco.ph

(Sgd.) ARMANDO N. OCHOA
BAC Chairman

(PDI – September 14, 2005)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

This is to inform the public that a **WARRANT OF ARREST** has been issued by the Regional Trial Court of Caloocan City, Branch 122 against **MA. JESUSA GABINAY** (AT-LARGE) for the Crime of Estafa (Criminal Case No. C-73659).

(PDI - Sept. 14, 2005)

Invitation to Bid

KEPCO Salcon Power Corporation ("KSPC") invites interested parties (the "Interested Parties") to participate and submit the bids and proposals (the "Bid") for:

"the supply of steaming coal (600,000 tons/year) to a coal fired thermal power plant (hereinafter referred to as 'Project") with a capacity of 2x100 MW in Barangay Colon, Municipality of Naga, Province of Cebu for 10 years."

The Bidding Package may be obtained by Interested Parties during office hours from September 13, 2005 to September 19, 2005. Only Interested parties who have been issued a Bidding Package shall be allowed to participate further in the bidding.
The schedule of the bidding shall be as follows:

• Pre-Bid Conference at KSPC office	3 PM, September 20, 2005
• Bid Submission Deadline	4 PM September 30, 2005
• Evaluation of Technical Proposal	Immediately after the Bid Submission Deadline
• Evaluation of Price Proposal	After finalization of evaluation of the "Technical Proposal"
• Post-Qualification	Until October 31, 2005
• Notice of Award	November 30, 2005

References to date and time in this notice shall be based on Manila time. Should any of the above dates fall on a holiday, the deadline shall be extended to the same time of the immediately succeeding business day in Makati City.

Bids must be delivered to **the Project Bids and Awards Committee ("PBAC")** in the office of KSPC as indicated in the address below no later than 4 PM September 30, 2005. All bids must be accompanied by a Bid Bond equivalent to two percent (2%) of the amount of Bid Price multiplied by proposed Annual Quantity in the form of Cash, Manager's Check, bank guarantee or an irrevocable standby letter of credit confirmed by a reputable local bank.

KSPC reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, and to annul the bidding process and to reject all Bids at any time prior to Contract Award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

KEPCO Salcon Power Corporation
18th Floor Citibank Tower, 8741 Paseo de Roxas, Salcedo Village
Makati City, Metro Manila, Philippines
Tel No. 63-2-848-0231
Fax No. 63-2-848-0013
E-mail: dali@kepco.co.kr

Lee, Gil Gu
President & CEO
KEPCO Salcon Power Corporation

(PDI-Sept. 14, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
San Miguel Avenue, Pasig City

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION FOR THE APPROVAL OF THE BUSINESS SEPARATION AND UNBUNDLING PLAN (BSUP) AND ACCOUNTING AND COST ALLOCATION MANUAL (ACAM) PURSUANT TO THE PROVISION OF SECTION 36 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9136 AND RULE 10 OF ITS IMPLEMENTING RULES AND REGULATIONS

ERC CASE NO. 2005-145 MC

BENGUET ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. (BENECO) **Applicant**
X————————————X

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES:

Notice is hereby given of the filing by Benguet Electric cooperative, Inc. (BENECO) on April 5, 2005, of an application, docketed as ERC Case No. 2005-145 MC, for approval of its: (1) Business Separation and Unbundling Plan (BSUP); and (2) Accounting and Cost Allocation Manual (ACAM), in accordance with the provisions of Section 36 of Republic Act No. 9136 (the Electric Power Industry Reform Act of 2001 or the EPIRA) and Rule 10 of its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

The Commission has set the application for the hearing on September 21, 2005 at two-thirty in the afternoon (2:30 P.M.) at the ERC Hearing Room, 15th Floor, Pacific Center Building, San Miguel Avenue, Pasig City.

All interested parties who may wish to comment on or oppose the said application should file their comments and/or oppositions on or before the date of hearing. Such parties who may wish to have the details of the application and who shall have manifested to the Commission their desire and intention to participate actively in the proceedings, may request that before the date of hearing, they be furnished with copies of the application by the applicant, which is directed to furnish the parties making such request with copies of the application and its attachments. Likewise, any such interested party may examine the application and other pertinent records filed with the Commission during the usual office hours.

WITNESS, the Honorable RODOLFO B. ALBANO, JR. Chairman, and the Honorables, OLIVER B. BATULID, JESUS N. ALCORDO and ALEJANDRO Z. BARIN, Commissioners, Energy Regulatory Commission, this 9th day of August, 2005 at Pasig City.

(Sgd.) **MARIA THERESA A. R. CASTANEDA**
Executive Director III

(PDI-Sept. 14, 2005)

Transition Supply Contracts (TSCs)

THE NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION recently signed Transition Supply Contracts (TSCs) with the eight electric cooperatives belonging to the Northeastern Luzon Electric Cooperatives Association (NELECA), raising prospects of more stable power rates in the said region. NELECA was the first group to sign TSCs with NPC following the Energy Regulatory Commission's approval of a template or a standard format for the TSCs between NPC and its distribution-utility customers. The TSCs are expected to protect end-users from volatile electricity prices while the country's power generation sector is moving towards full deregulation. Photo shows NPC President Cyril C. del Callar (seated, third from left) sharing a ceremonial toast with the NELECA members after the contract-signing.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

PROCUREMENT SERVICE

5th Floor. Mabini Bldg. DepED Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City
Telephone Nos. 636-65-43; Telefax No. 6366542, 633-93-43
Website: http://www.DepED.gov.ph

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The **Department Of Education Division Offices,** through its Division Bids and Awards Committees (BAC's), invites suppliers/ manufacturers/ distributors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

NAME OF PROJECT : **Supply and Delivery of Elementary Tables & Chairs and Secondary Armchairs**
LOCATION : Various Division Offices of the Department of Education
BRIEF DESCRIPTION : Lot A : Elementary Tables & Chairs
Lot B : Secondary Armchairs
Lot C : Elementary Tables & Chairs
Lot D : Secondary Armchairs
ABC & FUNDING SOURCE : Funding Source is the Government of the Philippines (GOP), 2004 and 2005 General Appropriations Act (GAA)
CONTRACT DURATION : One Hundred Twenty (120) Calendar Days
DELIVERY SITES : "Door to door" delivery to various recipient schools (See Schedule of Requirements of the Bidding Documents)

PROCURING ENTITY		APPROVED BUDGET FOR THE CONTRACT (ABC)							
		CY 2004				CY 2005			
DepED Division Office	Address (See Deped Website for details)	Lot A (Elem. Tables and Chairs)		Lot B (Secondary Arm Chairs)		Lot C (Elem. Tables and Chairs)		Lot D (Secondary Arm Chairs)	
		Qty	Amount	Qty	Amount	Qty	Amount	Qty	Amount
REGION I									
ILOCOS NORTE	Laoag City, Ilocos Norte	543	651,600.00	791	435,050.00	1056	1,267,200.00	1533	843,150.00
LAOAG CITY	Laoag City, Ilocos Norte	175	210,000.00	132	72,600.00	200	240,000.00	422	232,100.00
ILOCOS SUR	Vigan City, Ilocos Sur	1328	1,593,600.00	307	168,850.00	1143	1,371,600.00	3697	2,033,350.00
VIGAN CITY	Vigan City, Ilocos Sur	-	-	-	-	229	274,800.00	-	-
CANDON CITY	CandonCity, Ilocos Sur	-	-	-	-	202	242,400.00	-	-
LA UNION	San Fernando, La Union	501	601,200.00	2624	1,443,200.00	1808	2,169,600.00	3946	2,170,300.00
PANGASINAN I	Lingayen, Pangasinan	2100	2,520,000.00	2895	1,592,250.00	4784	5,740,800.00	6078	3,342,900.00
ALAMINOS CITY	Alaminos City	-	-	-	-	154	184,800.00	400	220,000.00
SAN CARLOS CITY	San Carlos City	224	268,800.00	630	346,500.00	480	576,000.00	543	298,650.00
PANGASINAN II	Binalonan, Pangasinan	1475	1,770,000.00	2361	1,298,550.00	3439	4,126,800.00	5304	2,917,200.00
DAGUPAN CITY	Dagupan City	250	300,000.00	192	105,600.00	450	540,000.00	176	96,800.00
URDANETA CITY	Urdaneta City	238	285,600.00	391	215,050.00	491	589,200.00	460	253,000.00
REGION II									
CAGAYAN	Tuguegarao, Cagayan	1520	1,824,000.00	2901	1,595,550.00	5675	6,810,000.00	5181	2,849,550.00
REGION III									
AURORA	Baler, Aurora	327	392,400.00	711	391,050.00	796	955,200.00	1737	955,350.00
BATAAN	Balanga, Bataan	1160	1,392,000.00	1099	604,450.00	2060	2,472,000.00	1581	869,550.00
BALANGA CITY	Balanga, Bataan	-	-	-	-	135	162,000.00	298	163,900.00
BULACAN	Malolos, Bulacan	4100	4,920,000.00	2447	1,345,850.00	7920	9,504,000.00	4999	2,749,450.00
MALOLOS CITY	Malolos, Bulacan	-	-	-	-	993	1,191,600.00	-	-
SAN JOSE DEL MONTE CITY	San Jose Del Monte City 115	500	600,000.00	1291	710,050.00	750	900,000.00	1848	1,016,400.00
NUEVA ECIJA	Cabanatuan City	2521	3,025,200.00	2790	1,534,500.00	5222	6,266,400.00	5938	3,265,900.00
MUNOZ SCIENCE CITY	Munoz, Nueva Ecija	-	-	-	-	235	282,000.00	107	58,850.00
CABANATUAN CITY	Cabanatuan City	484	580,800.00	265	145,750.00	760	912,000.00	415	228,250.00
GAPAN CITY	Gapan City	219	262,800.00	100	55,000.00	331	397,200.00	125	68,750.00
PAMPANGA	San Fernando, Pampanga	1260	1,512,000.00	5243	2,883,650.00	784	940,800.00	15571	8,564,050.00
ANGELES CITY	Angeles City	-	-	1685	926,750.00	989	1,186,800.00	-	-
SAN FERNANDO CITY	San Fernando, Pampanga	687	824,400.00	-	-	125	150,000.00	1775	976,250.00
TARLAC	Tarlac, Tarlac	1255	1,506,000.00	2794	1,536,700.00	3664	4,396,800.00	4416	2,428,800.00
TARLAC CITY	Tarlac, Tarlac	194	232,800.00	999	549,450.00	1135	1,362,000.00	-	-
ZAMBALES	Iba, Zambales	554	664,800.00	1712	941,600.00	1406	1,687,200.00	4023	2,212,650.00
OLONGAPO CITY	Olongapo City	552	662,400.00	-	-	275	330,000.00	1502	826,100.00
REGION IV-A									
TANAUAN CITY	Tanauan City	200	240,000.00	295	162,250.00	236	283,200.00	518	284,900.00
LIPA CITY	Lipa City	90	108,000.00	1063	584,650.00	90	108,000.00	1719	945,450.00
LUCENA CITY	Lucena City		-	1152	633,600.00	1035	1,242,000.00		-
RIZAL	Cabrera Rd., Hilltop, Taytay	2737	3,284,400.00	3855	2,120,250.00	6517	7,820,400.00	4253	2,339,150.00
ANTIPOLO CITY	Antipolo City	1325	1,590,000.00	1926	1,059,300.00	2225	2,670,000.00	3236	1,779,800.00
REGION IV-B									
MARINDUQUE	Boac, Marinduque	800	820,000.00	588	285,180.00	1650	1,891,250.00	1229	598,065.00
OCCIDENTAL MINDORO	Mamburao, Occ. Mindoro	1050	1,260,000.00	1453	799,150.00	2565	3,078,000.00	4146	2,280,300.00
ORIENTAL MINDORO	Calapan, Or. Mindoro	1720	1,763,000.00	2572	1,211,412.00	6094	6,246,350.00	2449	1,153,479.00
CALAPAN CITY	Calapan, Or. Mindoro	349	418,800.00	300	165,000.00	601	721,200.00	376	206,800.00
PALAWAN	Puerto Princesa City	1667	2,000,400.00	2088	1,148,400.00	6350	7,620,000.00	4434	2,438,700.00
PUERTO PRINCESA CITY	Puerto Princesa City	425	425,000.00	1052	472,348.00	975	975,000.00	1122	503,778.00
REGION V									
ALBAY	Legaspi City, Albay	1950	2,340,000.00	2663	1,464,650.00	5605	6,726,000.00	6890	3,789,500.00
TABACO CITY	Tabaco City, Albay	323	387,600.00	352	193,600.00	480	576,000.00	444	244,200.00
LEGASPI CITY	Legaspi City, Albay	300	360,000.00	349	191,950.00	658	789,600.00	626	344,300.00
LIGAO CITY	Ligao City	327	392,400.00	331	182,050.00	559	670,800.00	458	251,900.00
CAMARINES NORTE	Daet, Camarines Norte	1118	1,341,600.00	1507	828,850.00	3118	3,741,600.00	3689	2,028,950.00
CAMARINES SUR	Naga City	2861	3,433,200.00	5680	3,124,000.00	9616	11,539,200.00	11257	6,191,350.00
NAGA CITY	Naga City	174	208,800.00	564	310,200.00	469	562,800.00	521	286,550.00
IRIGA CITY	Iriga City	215	258,000.00	150	82,500.00	331	397,200.00	283	155,650.00
CATANDUANES	Virac, Catanduanes	580	696,000.00	649	356,950.00	1525	1,830,000.00	1797	988,350.00
MASBATE	Masbate City, Masbate	1766	2,119,200.00	2804	1,542,200.00	5539	6,646,800.00	6500	3,575,000.00
MASBATE CITY	Masbate City, Masbate	300	360,000.00	289	158,950.00	520	624,000.00	544	299,200.00
SORSOGON	Sorsogon City, Sorsogon	1710	2,052,000.00	2029	1,115,950.00	4872	5,846,400.00	4758	2,616,900.00
SORSOGON CITY	Sorsogon City, Sorsogon	305	366,000.00	465	255,750.00	426	511,200.00	490	269,500.00
REGION VI									
CAPIZ	Roxas City, Capiz	1000	1,200,000.00	3038	1,670,900.00	2120	2,544,000.00	7047	3,875,850.00
ROXAS CITY	Roxas City, Capiz	315	378,000.00	83	45,650.00	557	668,400.00	120	66,000.00
GUIMARAS	Jordan, Guimaras	441	529,200.00		-	1157	1,388,400.00	1099	604,450.00
ILOILO	Iloilo City, Iloilo	3181	3,817,200.00	5550	3,052,500.00	10759	12,910,800.00	10304	5,667,200.00
PASSI CITY	Passi City, Iloilo	177	212,400.00	80	44,000.00	273	327,600.00	90	49,500.00
NEGROS OCCIDENTAL	Bacolod City, Negros Occ.	2530	3,036,000.00	4727	2,599,850.00	4588	5,505,600.00	10344	5,689,200.00
CADIZ CITY	Cadiz City	431	517,200.00		-	89	106,800.00	1263	694,650.00
SAGAY CITY	Sagay City, Negros Occ.	251	301,200.00	191	105,050.00	461	553,200.00	252	138,600.00
SILAY CITY	Silay City	367	440,400.00		-		-	1135	624,250.00
BAGO CITY	Bago City	250	300,000.00	470	258,500.00	215	258,000.00	981	539,550.00
LA CARLOTA CITY	La Carlota City	100	120,000.00	151	83,050.00	178	213,600.00	158	86,900.00
KABANKALAN CITY	Kabankalan City	636	763,200.00		-	234	280,800.00	1285	706,750.00
BACOLOD CITY	Bacolod City, Negros Occ.	1125	1,350,000.00		-	353	423,600.00	2743	1,508,650.00
ILOILO CITY	Iloilo City, Iloilo	426	511,200.00	927	509,850.00	645	774,000.00	1407	773,850.00
REGION VII									
TAGBILARAN CITY	Tagbilaran City		-	486	267,300.00	385	448,525.00		-
TALISAY CITY	Talisay City	238	285,600.00	350	192,500.00	630	756,000.00	338	185,900.00
TOLEDO CITY	Toledo City	220	264,000.00	210	115,500.00	500	600,000.00	238	130,900.00
LAPU-LAPU CITY	Lapu-Lapu City	360	432,000.00	1141	627,550.00	650	780,000.00	1067	586,850.00
DANAO CITY	Danao City	132	118,800.00	524	235,800.00	177	159,300.00	920	414,000.00
BAIS CITY	Bais City	-	-	-	-	270	270,000.00	504	252,000.00
SIQUIJOR	Larena, Siquijor	128	115,200.00	290	130,500.00	136	122,400.00	735	330,750.00
REGION IX									
ISABELA CITY	Isabela City	330	363,000.00	189	103,950.00	520	572,000.00	85	46,750.00
ZAMBOANGA DEL NORTE	Dipolog City	1488	1,785,600.00	1728	950,400.00	4988	5,985,600.00	1674	920,700.00
DAPITAN CITY	Dapitan City	82	98,400.00	182	100,100.00	160	192,000.00	344	189,200.00
DIPOLOG CITY	Dipolog City	182	218,400.00	200	110,000.00	322	386,400.00	337	185,350.00
ZAMBOANGA DEL SUR	Pagadian City	2728	3,374,673.00	-	-	5171	6,396,768.00	2610	1,435,500.00
PAGADIAN CITY	Pagadian City	350	420,000.00	372	204,600.00	575	690,000.00	417	229,350.00
ZAMBOANGA CITY	Zamboanga City	1245	1,494,000.00	2001	1,100,550.00	1641	1,969,200.00	3200	1,760,000.00
REGION X									
BUKIDNON	Malaybalay, Bukidnon	4312	5,174,400.00	-	-	7621	9,145,200.00	8983	4,940,650.00
CAMIGUIN	Mambajao, Camiguin	125	150,000.00	259	142,450.00	445	534,000.00	171	94,050.00
LANAO DEL NORTE	Tubod, Lanao del Norte	1122	1,346,400.00	1229	675,950.00	3625	4,350,000.00	1789	983,950.00
ILIGAN CITY	Iligan City	515	618,000.00	1035	569,250.00	1080	1,296,000.00	1306	718,300.00
OROQUIETA CITY	Oroquieta City	-	-	-	-	185	222,000.00	249	136,950.00
OZAMIZ CITY	Ozamis City	212	254,400.00	449	246,950.00	275	330,000.00	585	321,750.00
TANGUB CITY	Tangub City	-	-	-	-	160	192,000.00	269	147,950.00
REGION XI									
COMPOSTELA VALLEY		1200	1,440,000.00	2271	1,249,050.00	3810	4,572,000.00	2999	1,649,450.00
DAVAO DEL NORTE	Tagum City, Davao	1317	1,580,400.00	1124	618,200.00	2897	3,476,400.00	2259	1,242,450.00
TAGUM CITY	Tagum City, Davao	400	480,000.00	630	346,500.00	680	816,000.00	573	315,150.00
PANABO CITY	Panabo City	457	548,400.00	453	249,150.00	635	762,000.00	627	344,850.00
IGACOS (SAMAL)	Samal	-	-	-	-	180	165,600.00	303	166,650.00
DAVAO DEL SUR	Digos, Davao del Sur	1112	1,315,182.40	2391	1,315,050.00	2750	3,252,425.00	5923	3,257,650.00
DIGOS CITY	Digos City	585	676,000.00	300	165,000.00	970	1,164,000.00	400	220,000.00
DAVAO ORIENTAL	Mati, Davao Oriental	1346	1,615,200.00	348	191,400.00	1987	2,384,400.00	4013	2,207,150.00
DAVAO CITY	Davao City	2220	2,664,000.00	5210	2,865,500.00	3628	4,353,600.00	7092	3,900,600.00
REGION XII									
COTABATO	Kidapawan City, Cotabato	3131	3,757,200.00	1401	770,550.00	7992	9,590,400.00	1566	861,300.00
KIDAPAWAN CITY	Kidapawan City, Cotabato	212	254,400.00	205	112,750.00	273	327,600.00	421	231,550.00
SARANGANI	Alabel, Sarangani	1440	1,728,000.00	500	275,000.00	3144	3,772,800.00	2023	1,112,650.00
SOUTH COTABATO	Koronadal City, South Cotabato	1210	1,452,000.00	1930	1,061,500.00	3924	4,708,800.00	1914	1,052,700.00
GENERAL SANTOS CITY	Gen. Santos City	1100	1,320,000.00	998	548,900.00	1225	1,470,000.00	1783	980,650.00
KORONADAL CITY	Koronadal City, South Cotabato	350	420,000.00	425	233,750.00	400	480,000.00	727	399,850.00
SULTAN KUDARAT	Tacurong City, Sultan Kudarat	2457	2,948,400.00	483	265,650.00	4139	4,966,800.00	4198	2,308,900.00
TACURONG CITY	Tacurong City, Sultan Kudarat	-	-	-	-	561	673,200.00	644	354,200.00
COTABATO CITY	Cotabato City	200	240,000.00	1062	584,100.00	785	942,000.00	646	355,300.00
REGION XIII									
SURIGAO DEL NORTE	Surigao City, Surigao del Norte	593	711,600.00	748	411,400.00	594	712,800.00	3006	1,653,300.00
SURIGAO CITY	Surigao City, Surigao del Norte	216	259,200.00	348	191,400.00	302	362,400.00	537	295,350.00
NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION (NCR)									
PASAY CITY	P. Burgos Elem. Sch. Pasay	336	403,200.00	1900	1,045,000.00	722	866,400.00	1900	1,045,000.00
CORDILLERA ADMINISTRATIVE REGION (CAR)									
ABRA	Bangued, Abra	360	432,000.00	354	194,700.00	440	528,000.00	1477	812,350.00
APAYAO	Kabugao, Apayao	151	181,200.00	419	230,450.00	650	780,000.00	633	348,150.00
BAGUIO CITY	Baguio City	272	326,400.00	1083	595,650.00	615	738,000.00		-
BENGUET	La Trinidad, Benguet	390	468,000.00	460	253,000.00	1250	1,500,000.00	1156	635,800.00
IFUGAO	Lagawe, Ifugao	310	372,000.00	400	220,000.00	557	668,400.00	1219	670,450.00
KALINGA	Tabuk, Kalinga	625	750,000.00	864	475,200.00	1200	1,440,000.00	1005	552,750.00
MT. PROVINCE	Bontoc, Mt. Province	200	240,000.00	216	118,800.00	1500	1,800,000.00	1169	642,950.00

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations of R.A. 9184 known as the Government Procurement Reform Act, and is restricted to organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interests or outstanding capital stocks belonging to citizens of the Philippines, as specified in Republic Act 5183. Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II, Instruction to Bidders of the Bidding Documents.

The **DepED Division Offices** will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all prospective bidders on **September 20, 2005, 10:00 a.m.** at the **Division Offices.**

Bids must be received on or before **October 6, 2005, 10:00 a.m.** at the **Division Office.** Late Bids shall be rejected.

Bids in excess of the Approved Budget for the Contract per Lot shall be rejected.

Bid Documents will be available to **prospective bidders** upon payment of a non-refundable amount of **Two Thousand Pesos Only (Php2,000.00)** to the Division Office's Cashier.

The Department of Education, reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or bidders.

Dates of Publication: Sept. 7 & 14, 2005
Newspaper: Philippine Daily Inquirer

(Sgd.) **JUAN MIGUEL M. LUZ**
Chairperson, Bids and Awards Committee

Schools First Means Students First

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
NATIONAL CAPITAL JUDICIAL REGION
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
BRANCH 204
CITY OF MUNTINLUPA

IN THE MATTER OF PETITION FOR
INVOLUNTARY INSOLVENCY
SPS. ROSARIO A. BALADJAY
SATURNINO BALADJAY, ET. AL., Debtors

- versus - SP. PROC. CASE NO. 03-026

ANNE MARIE CABALLERO, ET. AL., Petitioners,

ROMEO G. MANGALINO, ET. AL., Intervenors.

AMENDED ORDER

For failure of the debtors to file their Manifestation within ten (10) days as per Order of the Court dated April 21, 2005, the Court has to give due consideration to the evidence presented by the Petitioners. Petitioners prayed, among others, that after notice and hearing, to declare as insolvent, solidary DEBTORS Rosario A. Baladjay, Saturnino Baladjay, MULTITEL, Multitel International Holdings Incorporated (MIHI) and MIHI's subsidiaries namely MULTITEL Communications Corp., MULTITEL Consultancy Group, Inc., RAB Realty, Inc., and Richville Travels and Tours, Inc., and Polished Arrow Holdings, Inc., and that their assets, including those in the name of their conduits, be distributed among all their creditors in accordance with the provisions of the Insolvency Law; and to order the dissolution of Multitel, MIHI and MIHI's subsidiaries so that their assets may be distributed among all their creditors in accordance with the provisioins of the Insolvency Law.

To support Petitioners claim, aside from the voluminous documentary evidence they presented Carlos Perdo Rubi for Intervenor Edmundo Rubi, Joseph Gallano Dela Cruz, Melchor Briones Orais, Rafael Asuncion Manalo, Romeo Mangalino y Galicia, Elvira Reyes Oliva, Nestor Boyd Tinio, Joseph Moriel Belmonte and Sergio Theodoro Santos, for the other creditors, all of whom testified that they were all investors of the aforementioned debtors who failed to return, after demand, their money invested amounting to Millions of Pesos excluding the US Dollars when they because due.

The Joint Receivers, Leila Ira and Dr. Rafael Manalo submitted Reports to the effect that they have validated claims of the creditors amounting to **Four Billion Two Hundred Seventy-Eight Million Nine Hundred Ninety-Nine Thousand Two Hundred Forty-One Pesos and Thirty-Nine Centavos in the Philippine Peso (Php. 4,278,999,241.39) inclusive of Edmundo Rubi's claim, and Forty Million Five Hundred Forty-Four Thousand Seven Hundred Fourteen and Fifty-Seven Dollars (US$ 40,544,714.57), inclusive of Edmundo Rubi's claim, as against One Billion Six Hundred Ninety-Seven Million Two Hundred Twenty-Nine Thousand Four Hundred Fifty-Six Pesos and Ninety-Three Centavos in Philippine Peso (Php. 1,697,229,456.93) and in US Dollars Five Million Five Hundred Thirty-Two Thousand Eight Hundred Eighty-Seven and Eighty-Six (US$ 5,532,887.86) of the Debtors' properties and assets.**

After a careful examination of the records presented, it is clear that the Debtors defaulted in the payment of their current obligation and have failed after demand for a period way beyond what is provided for by law to pay all monies invested with them. Hence, the Court is convinced that the Debtors have committed acts of insolvency under Section 20 of the Insolvency Law (Act No. 1956), which provides that:

> "Section 20. xxx The following shall be considered acts of insolvency, and the petition for insolvency shall set forth one or more of such acts: xxx (11) that being a merchant or tradesman he has generally defaulted in the payment of his current obligations for a period of thirty days, (12) that for a period of thirty days he has failed after demand, to pay any moneys deposited with him or received by him in a fiduciary capacity, xxx."

WHEREFORE, the Court hereby adjudges that the following debtors are and were at the time of the filing of the Petition, an INSOLVENT, and they were guilty of the acts and things charged in the Petition:

1. Rosario A. Baladjay
2. Saturino Baladjay
3. Multitel International Holdings Incorporated
4. Multinational Telecom Investors Corporation
5. Multitel Communications Corporation
6. Multitel Consultancy Group Incorporated
7. RAB Realty Incorporated
8. Richville Travel and Tours Incorporated
9. Polished Arrows Holdings Incorporated

Pursuant to Section 24 of the Insolvency Law, the aforementioned persons and companies are hereby directed within three (3) days from receipt of this Order, to submit to this Court duly verified copies of the follwing:

1. A **Schedule of Debts and Liabilities** containing a full and true statement of all the debts and liabilities with a list of those to whom to the best of their knowledge and beliefs, said debts or liabilities are due, the place or residence of the creditors and the sum due each, the nature of indebtedness or liability and whether founded on written security, obligation, contract or otherwise, the true cause and consideration thereof, the time and place when and where such indebtedness or liability accrued, a declaration of any existing pledge, lien mortgage, judgment, or other security for the payment of the debt or liability, and an outline of the facts giving rise or which might give rise to a cause of action against it; and

2. An **Inventory of Assets** containing, besides the receivable credits, an accurate description of all the Respondent's real and personal properties, and effects, if any, together with a statement of the value of each item of said properties, effects and their location, and a statement of encumbrances thereon. All Respondent's properties exempt by law from execution should also be set out in said Inventory with a statement of its valuation, location, and the encumbrances thereon, if any. The Inventory should contain an outline of the facts giving rise, or which might give rise, to a right of action in Respondent's favor.

Accordingly, with the herein declaration of Involuntary Insolvency, all civil proceedings against said DEBTORS before any court, tribunal, office, board, body, Commission or sheriff are hereby deemed suspended. Consequently, all pending incidents for preliminary injunctions, writ of attachments, writs of execution, foreclosures and like are hereby rendered moot and acadmic.

The Receiver, Dr. Rafael A. Manalo, is directed to take possession of, and safely keep until the election of an assignee, all the deeds, vouchers book of accounts, papers, notes, bills and securities of the aforementioned persons and companies and all their personal properties, estate and effects, except those exempt from execution. In view thereof, all persons and entities owing money to the DEBTORS are hereby forbidden to make payment for its account or to deliver or transfer any property to DEBTORS or to any person for DEBTORS, except to the duly designated assignees.

For purposes of choosing the assignees of the estate of the aforementioned persons and companies, a meeting of all CREDITORS is set on December 14, 2005 at around 10:00 o'clock in the morning at the NBP Sunken Garden, New Bilibid Prison Reservation, Muntinlupa City. All other creditors who have not been validated by the Joint Receivers and have not filed their claims directly in Court at least Thirty (30) Days before the date set herein, are disqualified to vote for the assignees.

Let this Order be published in a newspaper of general circulation, once a week for three (3) consecutive weeks. Petitioners-in-intervention Romeo G. Mangalino, et al., and Edmundo Rubi, thru their Counsels, Attys. Mindamar Somera and Kathleen L. Ancanan, and Attys. Preston F. Villesis and Siena Therese Sontillano, respectively, are hereby deputized to cause such publication not later than September 30, 2005, and upon the filing of the Schedule above required to be submitted, to send copies of this Order by personal delivery and/or registered mail to all creditors listed in the said Schedule, and submit proofs thereof within five days from completion.

SO ORDERED.

City of Muntinlupa , July 22, 2005.

JUANITA T. GUERRERO
Judge

(PDI--Sept. 14, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
Province of Albay
Municipality of Malinao

Invitation for Bids (IFB)

August 15, 2005/Sept 13, 2005
Loan No. 4299-PH
IFBNo.Mal-SFF-0102005

To All Qualified Bidders:

1. The Government of the Republic of the Philippines has received a loan from the *International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD)* towards the cost of financing the Community-Based Resource Management Project (CBRMP) and intends to apply part of the funds to cover eligible payments for civil works component of the project. Bidding is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as define in the *Guidelines for Procurement under World Bank Loans.*

2. The Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the ***Rehabilitation of Level II Water System, in the Municipality of Malinao, Province of Albay.***

3. Bidding documents may be purchased on ***August 16 - September 14, 2005*** at *the **Municipality of Malinao*** with address at ***Poblacion Malinao Albay*** for a non-refundable fee of *Php 3,000.00* for each set. Interested bidders may obtain further information at the same address.

4. Bids shall be valid for a period of ninety (90) calendar days after Bid opening and must be accompanied by a security in the amount of ***Two Hundred Thousand Pesos (Php 200,000.00)*** in the form of Manager's check or Bank Guarantee and shall be delivered to the ***Bids and Awards Committee, Municipality of Malinao*** - on or before ***September 15, 2005, 10:00am,*** at which time they will be opened in the presence of the bidders who wish to attend.

5. A pre-bid conference was held on ***September 8, 2005; 10:00 AM*** at the Malinao SB Hall, Malinao, Albay

6. The committee reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids which may found disadvantageous to the government.

(SGD.) **GRACE N. MARBELLA**
BAC Chairperson

(PDI - Aug. 15 & Sept. 14, 2005)

Top architects join NREA confab

Palafox

Mangio

Ong

WORLD-RANKED architect Felino A. Palafox, Jr., the Professional Regulatory Commission's Outstanding Professional in Architecture for 2001 and 2005 Nestor S. Mangio and Singapore's leading urban designer Ong Tze Boon lead a host of resource persons who will speak at the National Real Estate Association's 10th National Convention and Trade Exhibits slated on Sept. 22-24 at the Megatrade Hall 3, Building B of SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City.

Palafox and his architectural firm, Palafox Associates, is the only Filipino and Southeast Asian company to join the latest rankings of the world's top 200 architectural companies. Mangio was recently adjudged one of the Top Ten Market Leaders in Asia for Architecture. Both Palafox and Mangio finished the rigid Advanced Management Development Program Course in Real Estate at Harvard University. Ong Tze Boon is the chairman of the Entrepreneurship and, the Codes and Standards Committees of the Singapore Institute of Architects.

With the theme "Sustaining the Real Estate Boom," architects Palafox, Mangio and Ong will discuss Transport-Oriented Development (TOD), Place Making: Creating People Places, and Mixed Used Development, respectively, to bolster the workshop themes of Urban Renaissance and Urban Renewal.

Other resource speakers include Commission on Higher Education Chairman Dr. Carlito S. Puno, urban management specialist Dr. Nathaniel von Einsiedel, business consultant Peter Leslie Wallace, Pag-IBIG Fund's CEO/Commissioner Romero F.S. Quimbo, Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board's CEO/Commissioner Romulo Q. Fabul, Chief of Staff Nelson M. Aspe of the BIR's Deputy Commissioner for Operations Group, Traffic and Parking Management Consultant of Mandaluyong City Ernesto L. Santos, Philippine Retirement Authority Gen. Manager Nelson Collantes, IRESPHIL Dean Dr. Ernesto V. Villagarcia, Fil-Estate Realty Corp. president Noel M. Cariño, and C&P Properties International President Marcelino M. Mendoza.

For more inquires on the Convention, contact tel. nos. 913-4463, 912-3492 or send e-mail through nrea_org@yahoo.com.

Realty pros gear up for NREA confab

REAL ESTATE SERVICE PRACTITIONERS from the four major regions of the country – NCR, Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao – will troop to the Megatrade Hall of SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City to attend the National Real Estate Association, Inc.'s (NREA) 10th National Convention and Trade Exhibits on Sept. 22-24, it was announced by NREA vice president Raphael G. Baylon, convention and exhibits chair.

Licensed real estate brokers will join engineers, architects, urban planners and other professionals in the housing and construction sectors to obtain the latest trends and updates in the industry which will further develop their professional skills as well as provide them with the necessary tools to uphold the Convention's underlying theme, "Sustaining the Real Estate Boom."

The NREA Convention will have the following expert resource speakers: world-ranked architect Felino A. Palafox, Jr., PRC's Top Professional in Architecture for 2005 Nestor S. Mangio, urban management specialist Dr. Nathaniel von Einsiedel, business consultant Peter Leslie Wallace, Ong Tze Boon, chairman of Singapore's Institute of Architects Entrepreneurship Committee, Architect Abelardo M. Tolentino, Jr., president of RMJM Philippines, among others.

For more inquires on the Convention, contact tel. nos. 913-4463, 912-3492 or send e-mail through nrea_org@yahoo.com.

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"I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."
John 14:6

APRONIANO S. RODULFO, JR.

Retiree of United Laboratories, Inc.

Peacefully joined his Creator on September 9, 2005 at the age of 65.

His body lies in state at the Loyola, Sucat.

Interment will be on September 14 after the 2:00 p.m. mass at Loyola, Parañaque.

Secretary Patricia A. Sto. Tomas
and the Department of Labor and Employment

express their deepest condolences

to the family and friends

of

Juan "Johnny" C. Tan

Founder and President Emeritus, Federation of Free Workers;
Presidential Order of the Golden Heart

A pillar in the Philippine labor movement.
A man of God, a man for others.
The embodiment of integrity, intelligence,
and patriotism in labor leadership.
- Blas F. Ople

"And for all this, nature is never spent;
There lives the dearest freshness
deep down things."
- Gerald Manley Hopkins

His remains lie in state at the Two Hearts of Jesus and Mary Church in West Triangle, Quezon City. Daily Masses at 7:30 p.m until Wednesday.

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Our Beloved

Amparo "Paring" Garcia Estayan

Peacefully joined her Creator on September 10, 2005 at the age of 78.

Atty. Mario Estayan her beloved husband; children Dr. Milagros E. Floranda, Lilia Rutledge, Elena, Nida, Belinda Richardson, Raul, Mario Jr., and grandchildren request the reader to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lies in state at Arlington Memorial Chapel, G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Sunday morning, September 18, 2005 at Himlayang Pilipino Memorial Park, Tandang Sora, Quezon City.

"...absent from the body to be present with the Lord." 2 Corinthians 5:8

"For everything there is a season and a time for every matter under Heaven." Ecclesiastes 3:1

RICARDO I. REYES, JR.

of Dinalupihan, Bataan

Peacefully joined his parents **Ricardo** and **Juanita** to rest in the infinite warmth and embrace of our Lord on September 2, 2005 in Los Angeles, California, U.S.A.

His loving family — wife **Lilibeth** and sons **Igi** and **Chad** — brothers and sisters **Raph**, **Joji**, **Ruel** and **Joyce** and their families, and other relatives and friends request the readers to pray for the repose of his soul and his eternal happiness.

His remains will arrive in the Philippines on September 15, 2005 and will lie in state at the Reyes Residence in San Ramon, Dinalupihan, Bataan.

Interment will be on September 17 (Saturday) at 1:30 p.m. at the Dinalupihan New Cemetery.

CLASSIFIEDS

ALBAY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

ALECO invites qualified contractors to bid for the **supply, installation and commissioning of a 10 MVA Substation** inclusive of a two to five year deferred payment scheme.

Eligibility and bidding documents may be secured from the **ALECO** office starting **September 15, 2005** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Php 10,000.00.

Site inspection is on **September 23, 2005 at 9:00 a.m.** All prospective bidders shall be required to attend site inspection and shall be issued Certificate of Inspection for eligibility to bid. For purpose of clarifying some issues, a pre-bid conference will be on **September 23, 2005** at 2:00 p.m. at ALECO Boardroom.

Application for eligibility and sealed bids shall be received by **ALECO** on or before **September 30, 2005 at 2:00 p.m.** and shall be publicly opened immediately thereafter.

ALECO reserves the right to reject any or all bids or parts thereof, to waive any informality therein, to accept such bids or to award any part of the work to any bidder whose bid is considered most advantageous to ALECO.

J. Misael Moraleda
JOSE MISAEL B. MORALEDA
Chairman, Technical PBAC-ALECO

(PDI - Sept. 14 & 17, 2005)

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY WATER DISTRICT
263 Rizal Avenue, Puerto Princesa City
Tel. Nos. 433-2408, 433-5032, 433-6802
Fax No. (48) 433-6803

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Puerto Princesa City Water District, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites contractors registered with and classified by the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) to apply for eligibility and if found eligible, to bid for the hereunder contract:

Name of Contract	Construction of 800 cu.m. Concrete Ground Reservoir
Location	Manalo cor. Lacao St., Puerto Princesa City
Brief Description	Construction of 800 cu.m. Concrete Ground Reservoir
Approved Budget For the Contract (ABC)	Five Million Three Hundred Forty-Eight Thousand Six Hundred Pesos and Sixty-six Centavos (P5,348,600.66)
Contract Duration	Ninety (90) Calendar Days

Prospective bidders should possess a valid PCAB License applicable to the contract, have completed a similar contract with a value of at least 50% of the ABC, and have key personnel and equipment (listed in the Eligibility Forms) available for the prosecution of the contract. The BAC will use non-discretionary pass/fail criteria in the Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids. The BAC will conduct post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shal be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The schedule of BAC activities is as follows:

BAC Activities	Schedule
1. Receipt from prospective bidders of Letters of Intent (LOI) including Application for Eligibility	On or before September 20, 2005 from 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
2. Issuance of Eligibility Forms	Upon receipt of LOI
3. Receipt of Eligibility requirements	On or before September 27, 2005; 5:00 p.m.
4. Opening of Eligibility Envelopes	September 28, 2005, 1:30 p.m. PPCWD BOD Room
5. Notice of Results of Eligibility Check	September 29, 2005
6. Issuance of Bid Documents	October 1-15, 2005
7. Pre-bid Conference	October 17, 2005, 1:30 p.m. PPCWD BOD Room
8. Receipt and Opening of Bids	October 31, 2005, 1:30 p.m. PPCWD BOD Room

The BAC will issue to prospective bidders Eligibility Forms at 263 Rizal Avenue, Puerto Princesa City, upon their submission of a LOI, and upon their payment of a non-refundable amount of One Hundred Pesos (P100.00) to the PPCWD Cashier. Prospective bidders shall submit the Eligibility Requirements to the BAC at the said address. They may also obtain the results of the eligibility Check by the BAC at the same address.

The BAC will issue Bidding Documents only to bidders declared by the BAC to be eligible for the bidding upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Five Thousand Pesos (P5,000.00) to the PPCWD Cashier.

The PPCWD assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids.

Approved by:
(Sgd.) Engr. VICENTE D. ABREA
PPCWD BAC Chairman

(PDI - Sept. 7 & 14, 2005)

PRIVATIZATION AND MANAGEMENT OFFICE INVITATION TO SUBMIT OFFERS

The assets are being offered on an "as-is, where-is" basis, at the Indicative Prices presented below. Sealed offers shall be received at 3:00 p.m. on the following schedules at PMO Conference Room, 6th Floor, Privatization and Management Office, 104 Gamboa St., Legaspi Village, Makati City.

Asset Name/ Location	Indicative Price (In Philippine Currency)	Date of Submission Of Offers
Asialand Development Corp. located at Ciudad Real, Subdivision, Tungkong Mangga, San Jose, Del Monte Bulacan Eighteen (18) parcels of subdivision lots	P9,059,600 (aggregate)	October 4, 2005
Carruf Development Corp. located at Legaspi Towers 300, P. Ocampo Sr. Avenue, (Vito Cruz) corner Roxas Blvd., Malate, Manila Residential Condominium unit (77.85 sq.m.)	P2,102,000	September 28, 2005

Interested parties may secure the sale documents from the PMO Marketing Dept. at non-refundable fees of P500.00 for each asset. A Gate Pass shall be issued to interested parties upon request.

Interested parties are advised to deal directly with the PMO Marketing Department.

For more information, please contact John DF. Baldemor and Carlo T. Subong of the PMO Marketing Dept. at telephone nos. 892-2145 or 818-4733.

(PDI--Sept. 12, 13 & 14, 2005)

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Bid to place pre-need firms under IC pushed

THE BANGKO SENTRAL NG PILIPINAS HAS backed a proposal to tighten regulations on pre-need companies by placing the sector under the wings of the Insurance Commission.

"Since the operations of pre-need companies are similar to the operations of insurance companies, the IC can be an effective regulator and supervisor of pre-need companies," said Diwa Guinigundo, BSP officer-in-charge.

Earlier, the Securities and Exchange Commission proposed that the BSP regulate the pre-need sector. But the proposal was opposed by the banking regulator itself.

Guinigundo yesterday said in a statement that under the BSP's charter, its supervisory and regulatory authority is limited to banking institutions and quasi-banks, including their subsidiaries and affiliates engaged in allied activities.

Guinigundo said the BSP agreed that the reorganization of the IC, as well as the streamlining of its structure and operations and upgrading of human resources, would enable the commission to exercise supervision over the pre-need sector.

He said the BSP was likewise supportive of the provisions in the proposed 'Pre-Need Code of 2005,' rationalizing the operations of these companies, particularly the fit and proper rule, as well as more stringent regulations on independent directors, trust funds, actuary and actuarial reserve liabilities.

Pre-need plans refer to products that cover foreseeable expenditures in the future such as retirement funds, education or even funeral arrangements.

Some pioneering players of the pre-need sector recently have been rocked by problems. In the case of education plans, their viability was adversely affected by the liberalization of tuition fees collected by private schools.

Doris C. Dumlao

Lepanto defaults on debts, says Australia bank

AUSTRALIAN PRIVATE BANK NM ROTHschild & Sons Ltd. is claiming that the Philippine firm Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co. has defaulted on some of its hedging contract debts.

Lepanto said it received a notice from NM Rothschild that "an event of default" exists with regards to its hedging contracts covering a total of 4,873 ounces of gold.

Rothschild also told Lepanto it was terminating all outstanding transactions with the mining firm involving 92,873 ounces.

The Philippine gold producer last month filed a petition with the Makati Regional Trial Court to declare its hedging transactions with NM Rothschild null and void.

Lepanto had asked to void its contract with NM Rothschild after talks with the private bank bogged down.

Lepanto's transaction with Rothschild involve monetary settlements equivalent to 97,746 ounces of gold.

"We have received notice from Rotschild demanding that we comply with our obligations covering a total of 4,873 ounces of gold, with a threat to declare an event of default in case of our failure to comply," said Odette Javier Lepanto, assistant corporate secretary Lepanto. "This is already the subject of the case that has been filed (with the Makati RTC)."

Lepanto earlier said it has fully repaid its $30 million loan from foreign banks Rothschild and Dresdner. As of last year, Lepanto had forwarded gold contracts to sell 169,043 ounces of gold at an average price of $295 per ounce. These will mature in 2005 worth $24 million based on marked-to-market prices.

Also, Lepanto told the Philippine Stock Exchange that it has ended a protracted labor dispute at its minesite in Mankayan, Benguet.

Elizabeth L. Sanchez

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*Annualized historical return of the Third Party Funds, net of taxes and fund manager fee, gross of American Express Bank's custodianship fee for the last 12 months.

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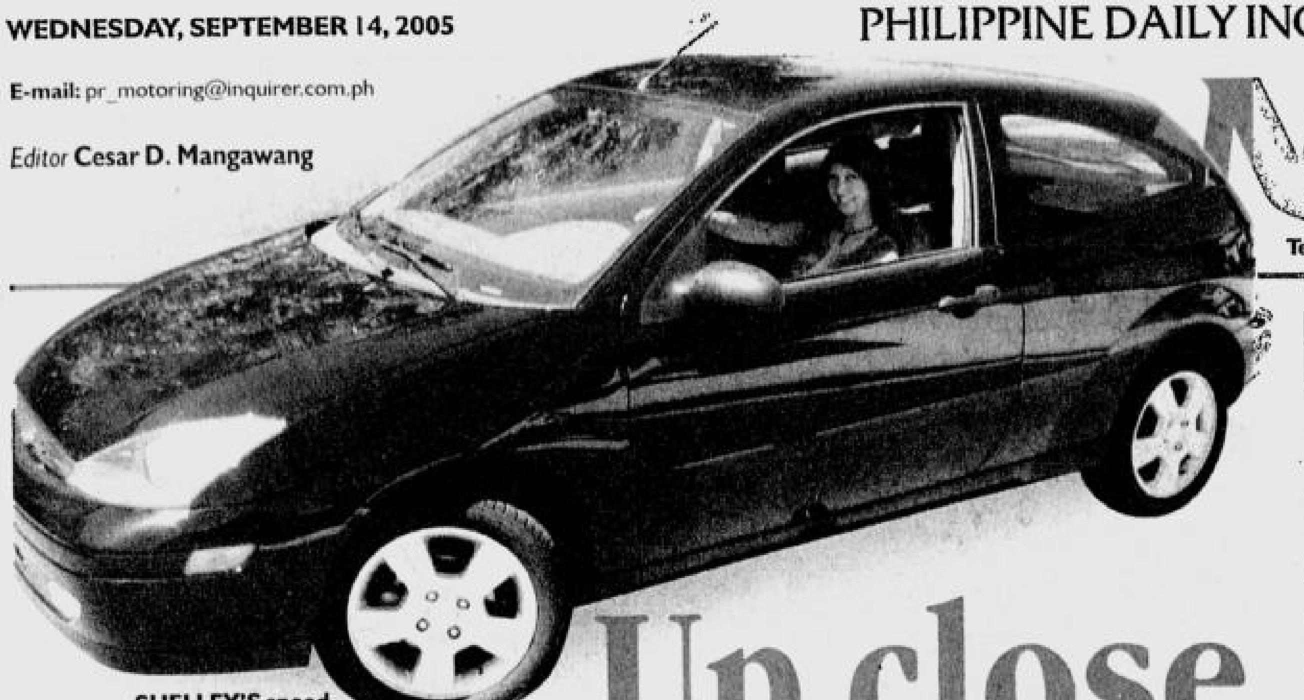

SHELLEY'S speed demon pose

Up close with a real Focus owner

By Tessa R. Salazar

(Last of two parts)

DRIVING THE FOCUS on the track for one day is one thing. It's another matter to actually own a Focus and drive it every day. That would be the true test for a car.

And so, it must have been serendipitous that this writer recalled an e-mail sent by a colleague, former local motoring writer Michelle Pritchard (now happily settled in California with hubby Wolf, former drummer of the band Wolfgang), which said she was a proud owner of a Focus.

Michelle, during her heyday here as a motoring journalist and performance driver, won in the Honda Media Challenge Dirt Trial Series (1999, first runner up; 2000, second overall; 1998-2000, first in ladies); 2000 Honda SiR Slalom (first runner-up overall and first in ladies) and in 2000 Philippine Enduro Championship, Philippine Motorsports Fest at the Subic International Raceway (third overall with teammate Menchie Fancisco—the first female team to ever land a podium finish at the Subic Raceway).

It was in 2004 when Michelle sent this writer via e-mail a photo of her black 2004 2.3-liter, 145-hp Ford Focus ZX3 A/T 3-door hatch.

Impressed

Her ZX3 is a "tame" 2-liter and 130-hp model, but she chose the sportier version. Even then, she said there was an even higher performance version called the SVT that delivered 170 hp.

Asked why she chose the Focus and not any other sports car, Shelley (as she was popularly called here) remarked, "Do not underestimate the performance of the Focus."

"I'm very impressed by its torque and maneuverability. The Focus landed an impressive second in the 2004 World Rally Championship, behind the Citroen Xsara and ahead of the Subaru Impreza. In fact, the street version shares the same rigid body shell design and advanced multilink rear suspension as the RS used in the WRC," she wrote.

Shelley drives every day to and from work. She now works in Laguna Beach, California, a 7-mile, 12- to 13-minute journey from her house in Laguna Niguel.

She is a front office supervisor at the Aliso Creek Inn & Golf Course, which is tucked in a beautiful canyon along the Pacific Coast Highway, just over half a kilometer from the beach.

She bought her Focus brand new in May 2004. "The odometer now reads 13,500 miles," she wrote.

Shelley, who also used to be a member of a local band, now doesn't lug any musical instrument in her Focus. "However, my Focus' trunk is spacious for beach and shopping trips. Plus, the rear seats conveniently fold down for additional cargo space."

'Obedient driver'

Though Shelley insists that she's an "obedient driver," she has been known to be "mildly aggressive" when impatient (read: extremely aggressive in the motoring beat). She herself enumerates her three types of driving styles—speed demon on the race track, abiding citizen on the road, and "smart-aleck lane-jumper in a hurry."

The third type of driver in her almost got her into trouble. She wrote that one time, she was lost and late for an appointment and was looking for the freeway entrance. The car on her right that she was overtaking suddenly sped up. She got annoyed by this act that she accelerated and cut the other driver close. Suddenly, the entrance to the freeway popped up on her right and she swerved onto it rather quickly.

"I was so concerned about the car I'd cut off that I failed to notice the freeway entrance didn't just veer to the right. It was a tight hairpin turn! I braked so hard that my tires squealed, and I fought the wheel to keep the car on the road. I was sure that the rear would flip out into a spin, but I was surprised that I only kicked up some roadside dust. I wish I could attribute the avoidance of an accident to my superior driving skills, but I really have my Focus' handling to thank," she said.

Nitty-gritties

So what doesn't she like about the Focus?

There are the nitty-gritties Shelley would like Ford to address, such as the seat adjustments (she said it's too hard to crank the height adjustment of her seat), and the ABS (which, she said, should come as standard on all Focus variants). She said that she had also read that her 4-speed automatic wasn't as fuel-efficient as the 5-speed manual, and is, in addition, "a teeny bit more sluggish in comparison."

"Esthetically, the novelty of switching from a sedan to an exciting new hatchback that wasn't available in the Philippines has worn off and I don't feel very excited about its looks anymore. It certainly doesn't command the road like an SUV, and it won't turn your head in a crowd like a luxury sedan. In my opinion, it has the 'middle-child syndrome'—people don't stop to admire it because it simply doesn't stand out. I predict that once the Focus has adequately populated the Philippines, the excitement buzzing around now will quickly wear off."

Well, Shelley, not if we keep seeing flying Focuses during halftime games in the UAAP.

Crisis solutions over Sunday lunch

MY DRIFT

Andre Palma

THERE IS VERY LITTLE RITUAL OR CEREmony in my life since juggling the responsibilities of family, business and cars keep my weekly schedule chaotically fluid to say the least.

There are but two certainties in every week, the Monday deadline for the INQUIRER and Sunday lunch with family and friends. Over a very predictable menu of comfort food, light gossip and the occasional bottle or two of wine, lives are shared, insight provided free of charge or solicitation, and the state of our nation is assessed.

Filipinos love to talk politics and this is the usual fare that our group juggles post repast, just as the deluge of dark, deep coffee begins. These sessions last well past *merienda* (snacks) time and sometimes evolve into dinner as well.

Rising costs of fuel

As of late, the rising costs of fuel have crept into the discussion and I've found myself in the proverbial hot seat. With questions best left to scientists and bureaucrats, my own insight often falls short of what many of my lunch mates hope to hear. A whole day of dialogue about the dismal crisis is wearisome to say the least.

I will talk cars with anyone, at ease, for hours on end, but the state of the national and worldwide oil crisis is a subject that is so hefty and heavy that I flounder under its very mass. How do we get the petroleum companies to lower their pump prices? Is there a possibility of finding fuel alternatives and begin the practical application of these soon? When will the increases stabilize? Most times a resigned sigh is the best answer I can come up with. Last Sunday though, an idea was put forward that made just too much sense.

Bear with me, ladies and gentlemen, but the simplicity of the proposal will have many of you asking why this was not thought of earlier. So, here we go.

Several gasoline grades

Most of the top petroleum companies, in an effort to appeal to the different needs and perceived wants of motorists, have gone on to advertise and market several gasoline grades in their respective product lines. Typically, there's the top shelf, high (?) octane brew for the performance crowd and their picky machines. A mid-line gasoline usually follows and is sold on the supposed merit of detergents or "engine conditioners"—whatever that is supposed to mean.

Then there's the controversial unleaded stuff, which despite the lack in combustible punch, apparently carries you farther. I've been an advocate of the multiple product line philosophy because people can get what they want and, more often than not, they get what they pay for. Current crisis conditions necessitate an appraisal of such a multiproduct sales system.

Why the fuss then, you may ask? Isn't the market better because of this product specialization? The key is looking at the big picture with a single critical word in mind: overhead. Let's use a specific type of overhead as an example. It is not far from our collective imagination that each distinct gasoline product carries a distinct advertising budget. These advertising budgets are operational expenses that affect a company's bottomline. Ideally these expenses are covered by gross revenue.

A large part of any petroleum company's revenue is from pump sales and this is money that directly comes from consumers pockets. It is therefore possible to conclude that if a petroleum company wants to make money, it must defray the cost of said expenses, such as advertising, and it must charge more money to the consumer.

Trim the number

Here's the kicker. What if instead of three

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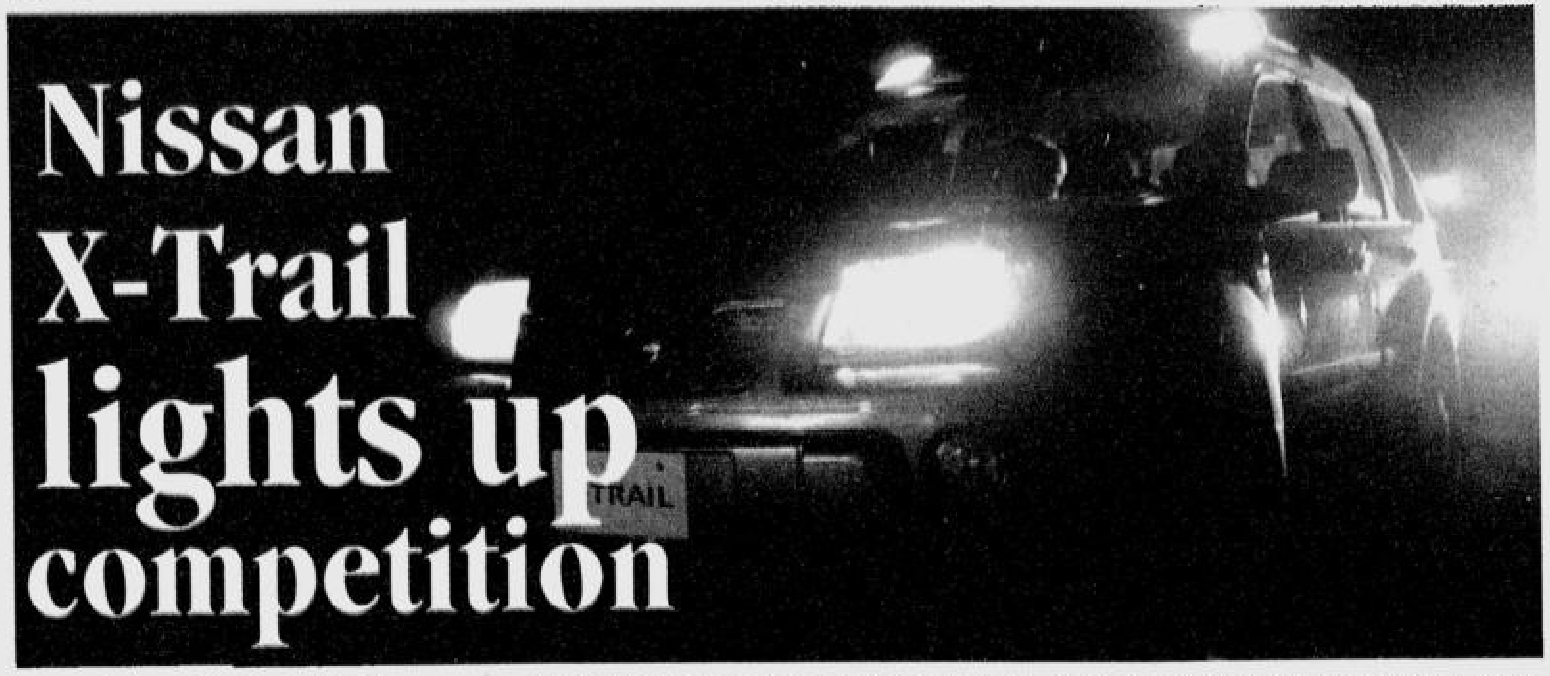
Nissan X-Trail lights up competition



Text and photos by Charles E. Buban

IT WAS ALMOST DUSK WHEN WE started our drive. Taking the long way to Chateau Royale in Nasugbu, Batangas (starting from the South Luzon Expressway's Petron station), our convoy of nine spruced-up Nissan X-Trails took the highway as well as a couple of little known and forgotten off road trails in Laguna and Batangas.

The route, which covered approximately 140 kilometers, was planned by Raymond Tribdino, Nissan Motor Philippines (NMPI) senior manager for market and product planning, who wanted to highlight some of the salient features of the latest X-Trail.

Indeed, with that nighttime driving through paved roads, muddy trails and steep climbs, he succeeded in proving that the X-Trail still remains among the best compact SUVs out there.

Competition on its toes

"The X-Trail has kept much of its competition on its toes. Last year, the X-Trail came in a strong second in its segment. That means a lot for NMPI considering the X-Trail has been in the Philippine market for less than two years," admits Tribdino.

In unveiling the latest X-Trail, NMPI decided not to change its already reliable 2.5-liter (available in the top-of-the-line 250X variant) and 2.0-liter (available in the 200X and 200 variants) QR series engines.

Delivering maximum power of 180 PS and 150 PS, respectively, these two engine choices is more than enough to provide the X-Trail quick acceleration performance and reliability when encountering challenging off road trails.

The 250X and 200X variants also retained its unique "All-Mode Four-wheel Drive" system. The system's Auto Mode features a "no-slip on start-ups" technology, which gives the X-Trail power on all four wheels when the accelerator pedal is depressed. The X-Trail's computer system does the disengaging of 4x4 when it is not needed.

Derived from the popular race-ready Skyline GTR, the advanced selectable all-wheel drive system gives the X-Trail its excellent on-road handling attributes.

Several design changes

What separates the latest X-Trail from its predecessors are several design changes: the 250X variant now sports a roof-mounted "safari-style" lamps called Hyper Roof Rail, which should put the top-of-the-line variant slightly ahead of its rivals.

The Hyper Roof Rail, which adds forward illumination by as much as 30 percent (from its 30 mm deep and three meters wide beam), improves active safety at night.

As an added safety, the lamps are only activated when the headlights are on high beam, so as not to dazzle oncoming drivers from the opposite lane.

"First seen at the 2000 Paris Motorshow, the Hyper Roof Rail was conceived to help drivers gain more visibility, especially in challenging off-road conditions. According to its product designers headed by Masahiro Toi, this should be part of any SUV with real-world, off-road capabilities," reveals Tribdino.

Five-spoke alloy wheels

NMPI also gave the 250X new five-spoke alloy rims with thicker sections to complement the taller stance created by the addition of the Hyper Roof Rail.

Another off-roading accessory that soon found its way in the latest X-Trail design is the Baby Fender Mirror.

"It is not merely cosmetic—primarily used to assist off roaders in clearing large rocks and avoiding ditches, the Baby Fender Mirror can be useful when parking the latest X-Trail in tight spaces, traversing narrow streets and reversing between obstacles," explains Tribdino.

Other notable additions to the latest X-Trail include the center-mounted Euro rear lamps (standard in 250X and 200X variants) that improves rear visibility; roof spoiler (available in the 200X and 200 variants); and the chrome V-designed grille.

Available at all Nissan dealerships nationwide, the X-Trail is priced at P1.35 million (250X), P1.23 million (200X) and P1.12 million (200).

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That bike lane; Gift of the Year

FULL TANK

Al Mendoza

BY ALL MEANS, LET'S HAVE THE bike lanes constructed in Metro Manila as soon as possible.

The truth is, we've been really very much behind in the aspect of people-friendly projects. We are the so-called "text capital of the world" as well as the "call center capital of the world."

I say we should be prouder of feats that should touch on the overall well-being of the race, than things that are nothing but mostly frivolous in nature. The establishment of the bike lane is definitely geared toward that direction.

* * *

Who needs Guinness records on the longest "bangus grill" in the world, the biggest "human rainbow" or even the "biggest shoe" in the world?

Those are but things bereft of substance and are mere band-aid solutions, palliatives, to a people yearning for concrete measures to make them feel their government is really pro-people and truly responsive to the welfare of the governed.

The bike lane will directly benefit our people, especially the marginalized whose survival in the so-called asphalt jungle virtually depends on public transport.

* * *

Surely, the bike lane will help reduce our poor folk's job-related expenses. It will also make them healthy as biking is good for the heart and lungs. But let's remove those smoke belchers first? What good would the bike lane give us if the biker gets choked by emissions of poisonous fumes renting the air?

OK, if you wish, let's even name the bike lane Jose Pidal Avenue. For, as Deng Xiao Ping put it: "I don't care if the cat is white or black for as long as it catches mice."

What's in a name? A rose, by any other name, always smells sweet.

* * *

Here's one from Isuzu: "The heart does a lot of amazing things many of us do not realize. For one, it beats steadily and untiringly. The average heart beats 72 times every minute. That's 100,000 times in a single day, and almost 38 million times during an entire year. For another, the heart pumps blood from the veins into the arteries. An average heart pumps about 70 millimeters of blood for every beat. That means it pumps no less than five liters of blood every minute, 7,200 liters every day and 2.6 million liters every year. No wonder the heart is the most vital of all organs. It stops beating or pumping blood, we die. It's that simple."

Wow! I raise a glass to that.

"In the world of motor vehicles and industrial businesses, only one thing is considered to possess the importance as well as play the role of the heart: the almighty engine or power train. Without the other parts, a car or a machine, may still function. But without an engine, everything just comes to a grinding halt."

The automaker's expertise on diesel dates back to 1936, when its predecessor, Automobile Industries Co. Ltd. developed Japan's first air-cooled automotive diesel engine. The company was renamed Isuzu Motors Limited in 1949.

Seventy years later since assembling its first diesel engine, Isuzu has now built and sold over 18 million diesel engines around the world.

* * *

General Motors Corp., the largest car manufacturer in the world, has recognized Isuzu as the chief authority on diesel engines, selecting Isuzu to oversee diesel engine development in the entire GM Group.

And yes, because the Alterra has been doing robust business due in part to the long queues for the Toyota Fortuner, Isuzu is seriously considering giving Toyota Motor Philippines a surprise gift this Christmas.

Whatever that is, it should prove the Gift of the Year in the motoring industry.

* * *

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the Sorento never skips a beat.

The **COMMON RAIL DIRECT INJECTION (CRDI) diesel engine with Turbo Charger and Intercooler** helps the Sorento bolt out the force needed to master treacherous driving conditions. The automatic **HIGH INTELLIGENCE VEHICLE ELECTRONIC CONTROL (HIVEC) with Adaptive Sequential Shifting** transmission shifts gears intelligently, to exactly what is needed, when needed. The result is minimized fuel consumption and maximum performance. Where power provides the ultimate high, the Sorento engages into a mean 4x4 simply at the turn of a knob.

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Crisis solutions over Sunday lunch

From page B2-1

distinct gasoline products, the petroleum companies would trim the number to just two or even just one type of gasoline? Presumably their overheads would drop, therefore allowing the more conscientious players in the industry to lower pump prices given the crisis the Philippine motorist is enduring at the moment.

If the petroleum companies are able to identify the low-volume, high-expense gasoline products and omit these, even just for the duration of our crises, then the impact could be tangible at the very least.

Even an incremental drop in pump prices would have uplifting effects on our nation's morale and business environment. Efficiency in operations is something that many small- to medium-scale businesses have undertaken, if just for their own fiscal survival.

Making the overheads of the petroleum companies "leaner and meaner" might hopefully go beyond helping their own financial situations. I think that I speak for all of us that we, the motorists of the Philippines, will welcome any sort of respite from the crisis conditions. Let's keep our fingers crossed that the petroleum companies find this proposal feasible and worthwhile.

Announcement

Due to space limitations, the Sorento story by Tessa Salazar will come out next week.

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2nd draw	Oct. 5-Nov. 30	Dec. 9 (close of office hours)	Dec. 15, 2005 (2 PM)

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See posters & flyers for more details.

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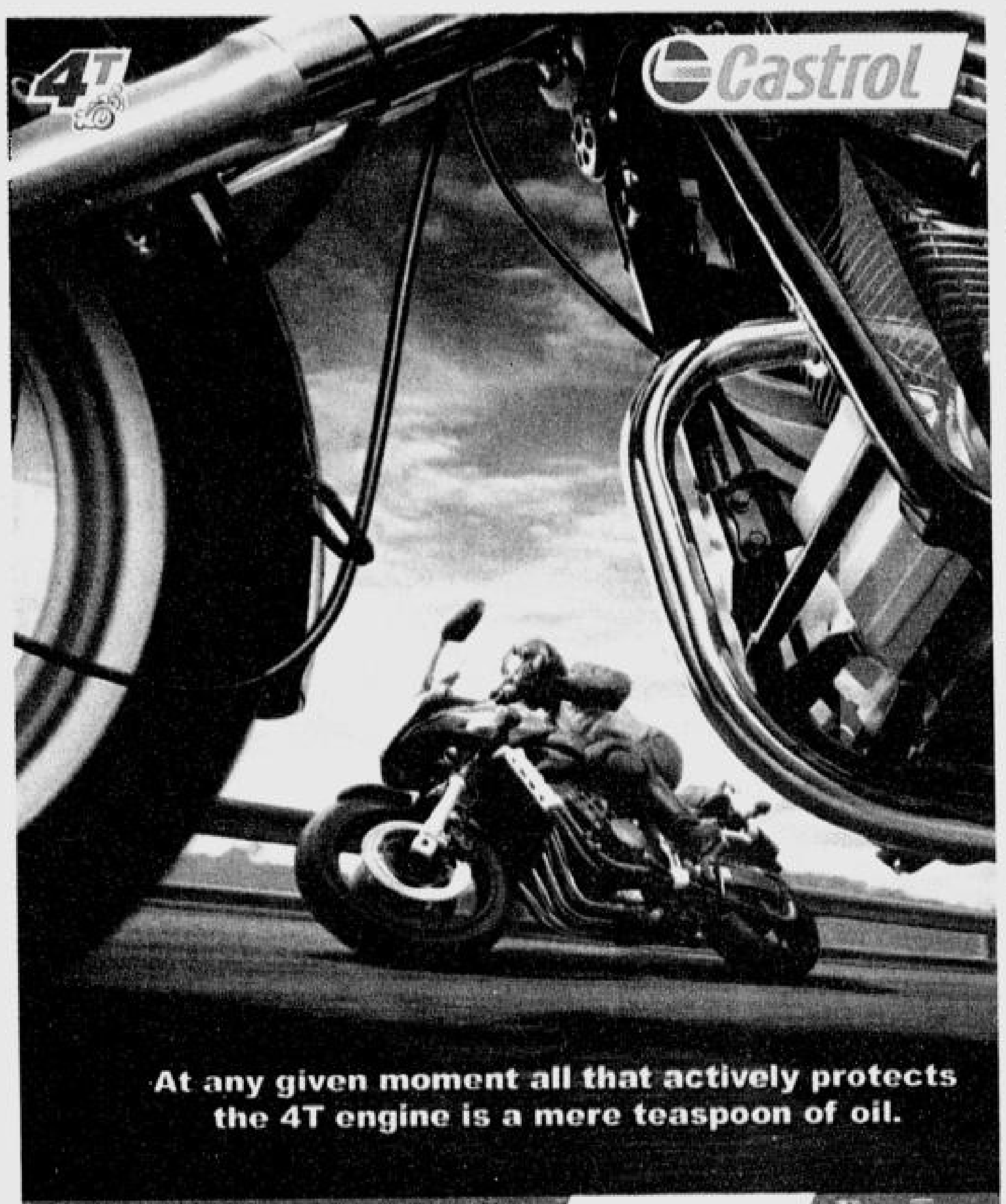
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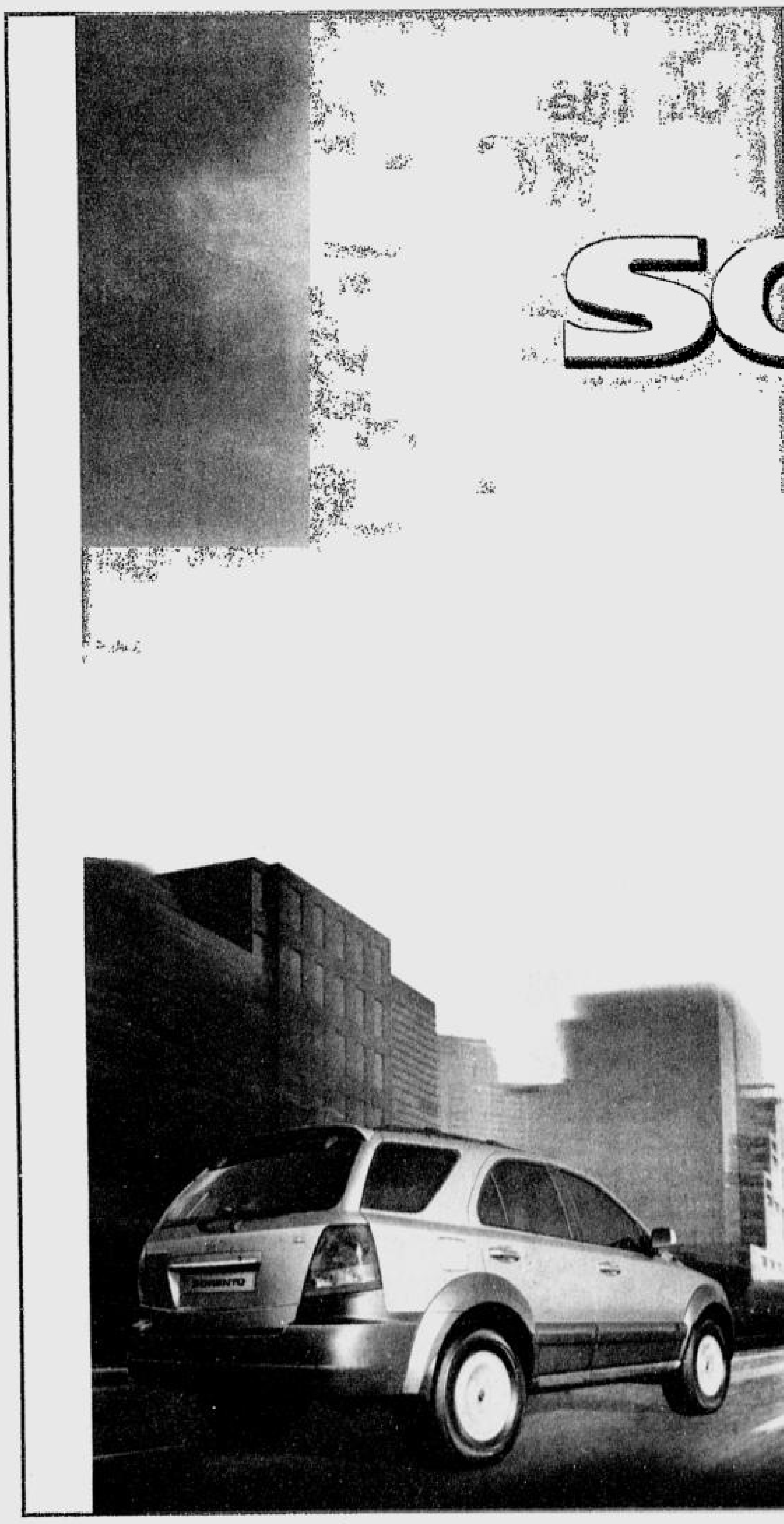

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4x4 Magazine (UK)
☆ Awarded the highest in SUV segment by the
2003 Strategic Vision Total Quality Index
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Auto Pacific 2003 Vehicle Satisfaction Award
☆ Best Mid Size SUV in 2003
Motor Week's Driver's Choice Award
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Northwest Automotive Press Association (USA)
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newcartestdrive.com
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The 4X4 Magazine (UK)
☆ Best in Class
Truck Trend Magazine (USA)
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The Dodge Durango: grabbing the horns

ON THE ROAD

Aida Sevilla-Mendoza

THERE WAS A TIME WHEN I BELIEVED that the SUV with the most intimidating façade was the Nissan Patrol—until I came face-to-face with the big crosshair grille, battering ram badge and shotgun-style halogen headlights of the 2005 Dodge Durango.

Small wonder that when you "grab life by the horns" and drive a Durango, other cars tend to give way. But surprisingly, while the Durango looks big and tough on the outside, it is extremely refined inside. It is a combination of American muscle and European finesse, being a product of DaimlerChrysler, that unlikely partnership of Stuttgart's Mercedes-Benz pedigree and Dodge, Detroit's muscle car icon. The combined effort resulted in a unique SUV that is not entirely American nor entirely European but a blend of the best of both worlds.

Bigger

One look at the Durango and you will instantly recognize it as made-in-the-USA because of its size and heft. Although it is classified as a mid-sized SUV competing with the Ford Explorer, it is bigger and with its third row seat folded, offers more flat cargo room (68 cubic feet) than large SUVs like the Chevrolet Tahoe, Ford Expedition and Toyota Sequoia. When the second row seat is stowed, cargo capacity increases to 102 cubic feet. The distance between the wheel housings in the cargo area is 48.5 inches, good for bulky loads such as building materials.

Sheer size and 6,400 lb gross vehicle weight require power to match. Dodge delivers with either of two SOHC eight-cylinder engines: the 4.7 liter Magnum V8 capable of 235 brake horsepower at 4,500 rpm and 290 lb-ft max torque at 3,600 rpm or the 5.7 liter Hemi V8 producing 335 hp at 5,200 rpm and 370 lb-ft at 4,200 rpm of torque. Both have a smooth-shifting 5-speed automatic transmission but at present the Hemi V8 is not yet available at CATS Motors in Manila.

The Durango's dimensions translate into plenty of head, hip and leg room and comfortable 2/3/2 seating for seven passengers, including driver. Euro touches in the 4x4, 4.7-liter Limited edition, which I test-drove, include high-quality leather covering the seats and steering wheel, power front bucket seats with height and lumbar adjustment, integrated speed and audio controls on the tilt-adjustable steering wheel, real (not plastic) brushed aluminum trim, delayed/fade courtesy lights, auto dimming rear view mirror and the headlights dial located at the left side of the dashboard.

Infinity audio

Other luxe amenities in the P2,450,000 Limited: the Infinity AM/FM radio 6-disc changer (with eight speakers, Ceramic Metal Matrix Diaphragm technology, subwoofer and a 368-watt amplifier), driver memory settings, automatic temperature control, power adjustable pedals. Exterior-wise, the Limited is distinguished by body-color side moldings with chrome accent and 17" x 8" cast aluminum wheels.

On the road, the Durango handled and cornered exceptionally well despite its tallness and size, thanks to the extra-rigid hydro-formed, fully boxed frame plus the wishbone independent front suspension with torsion springs, beam rear suspension with coil springs and stabilizer bars front and rear. Driving this truck-based beast is a pleasure because of the impressively smooth, quiet, comfortable ride and almost nil noise, vibration and harshness levels. However, although the Durango's turning radius is a neat 39.9 feet, maneuvering it into a tight parking slot requires some effort.

The Limited edition loaned to me has a dash-mounted dial with three settings: AWD for everyday driving, 4LOCK for rough, slippery or uneven roads and 4LO for low-speed, low-traction conditions. But extreme off-road capability is not the 4x4 Durango's forte as it is designed more for superlative on-road handling.

Best in class

And best-in-class towing capacity. The robust 4.7L V8 4x4 Durango can carry up to 1,580 lb of cargo and haul a 7,200-lb trailer or boat. For sure stopping power even when heavily loaded, the Durango is equipped with the largest brakes in its class: four big vented disc brakes with twin piston calipers in front and standard four-wheel ABS.

Aside from smart dual-stage front airbags that deploy with varying force based on front passenger presence and weight, there are octagonal front frame rail tips that absorb frontal impact. These safety features earned a Five Star/Five Star frontal impact rating for the Durango from the US National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

Inevitably, because of its bulk, the Durango is a gas guzzler. The 4.7L V8 Limited averages only 5.5 km per liter in a mix of city and highway driving. But DaimlerChrysler can easily improve the Durango's fuel efficiency—and thus convince more people to "Grab life by the horns"—by replacing its gasoline engine with a powerful, state-of-the-art Mercedes-Benz common rail direct injection diesel engine.

* *

TODAY'S BUMPER STICKER: Cynics are people who know the price of everything but the value of nothing.

Matrix CRDI:
More than meets the eye

Beneath the unassuming appearance of the Matrix CRDi is a fierce machine ready to transport its passengers at an unbelievable speed, stability and fuel efficiency.

Fuel economy tests conducted by HARI technicians and verified by motoring journalists from the Car Awards Group, Inc. (CAGI) have produced consistently excellent results for the Matrix CRDi. For instance, on a long drive of 88-kilometers where driving conditions were controlled (minimal traffic, speed at 0-80kph, rpm at 2,000rpm), a CAGI representative was able to get 25.1-kilometers to a liter. Another CAGI tester achieved 24.33-km/li., while Hyundai tests produced 21.69km/li.

Driving through about 60+ kilometers of heavy traffic in city driving tests, HARI and CAGI tests resulted in average fuel efficiency of 13.34km/li. Meanwhile, combined city, highway and uphill driving through 180 kilometers produced fuel efficiency test results of 15.22-km/li. average for HARI and CAGI testers.

Unlike current engines which rely on an indirect injection of an air and fuel mixture, the common rail (CRDI) engine delivers vaporized fuel, attained by applying high pressure, directly to the cylinders (direct injection), hence increasing fuel efficiency to an ideal level. High pressure fuel produced by the fuel pump is sent to an accumulator, and the state of the engine is analyzed by the ECU, which precisely controls timing, amount, and pressure before injecting fuel into the cylinder.

Moreover, the Matrix CRDi's variable geometry turbine (VGT) uses a more effective, though complex, method of turbocharging using a turbine stage where the swallowing capacity is automatically varied while the engine is running. This permits turbine power to be set to provide just sufficient energy to drive the compressor at the desired boost level wherever the engine is operating.

Variable Geometry Turbocharging yields several benefits in engine matching, including: good transient response, fuel economy, increased useful engine operating speed range, enhanced compression brake capability, and high-pressure ratio compressors.

Along with the cutting-edge features of the Matrix CRDi such as the 4-wheel independent suspension, power steering, power windows, power side mirrors, and center console with power outlet, the new Matrix CRDi comes with dual bulb headlamps, redesigned fog lamps, and new fabric seat design. #

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. [illegible] Series of 2005

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NOCTURNAL MANILA (Part 1)

Blame it on the call centers mushrooming all over the city, blame it on insomnia—Manila after dark is becoming more and more alive every day. To celebrate the nocturnal lifestyle, 2bU! highlights different places that keep their doors open for your convenience 24 hours a day, seven days a week. If intense burger craving hits you in the middle of the night, no worries, fast food chains like Jollibee and McDonald's are keeping their crew up to serve your favorite goodies. You want yummy pizza to enjoy with your "Desperate Housewives" marathon? Head over to Cost U Less. Are you aching to be pampered but you have no time during the day? The Westin Sports Club and Spa is ready to offer all kinds of treatments any time you want. If you just can't get enough gym time, with Planet Infinity, you can continue your workout while the rest of the country sleeps.

This is just the beginning. Next week's issue will be packed with even more 24/7 goodness.

But for people who still like sleeping early, this week we also have fun promos that you can join (no, you don't have to stay up late) and a feature on ultra-fab feminine brand Urban&Co.

Enjoy!

ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

Fast chow, 24/7

By Maui V. Reyes
2bU! Correspondent

THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT fast food that makes us feel relaxed and comfy. Even better, in the past years, burger and fast-food joints have chucked out their "operating hours" signs and decided to go round-the-clock. And fresh grads at call centers looking for grub in the wee hours of the morning, it's makes good business sense for food places to open their doors to the graveyard market.

Here's a look at four of the top fast-food chains in the Metro that at the ungodly hour of 3 a.m. can satisfy your hunger fix.

Chowking

"Dito masarap kumain...," and here's where people have been getting their Chinese food fix fast food-style since the early '90s.

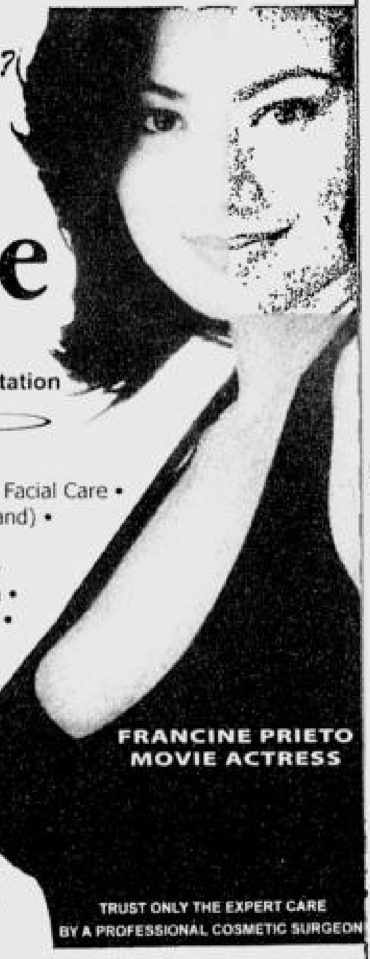
First in line: Chowking was the first to introduce 24-hour stores among the quick-service restaurants. Its 24-hour stores are strategically located to cater to the graveyard market. "Chowking is the leading player in terms of the number of 24-hour stores," says Marlon Sison, marketing officer of Chowking.

Comfort food: Sison says patrons mostly go for Chowking's steaming-hot products. "They like food that comforts them through the night," he explains. After-hour bestsellers are noodles and congee, while all-time bestsellers are *halo-halo* and lauriats.

All-around menu: Everything on the menu is available 24 hours—that means you can still get your *halo-halo* in the wee hours of the morning.

Hold the delivery: Unfortunately, Chowking doesn't do deliveries round-the-

FAST/ C2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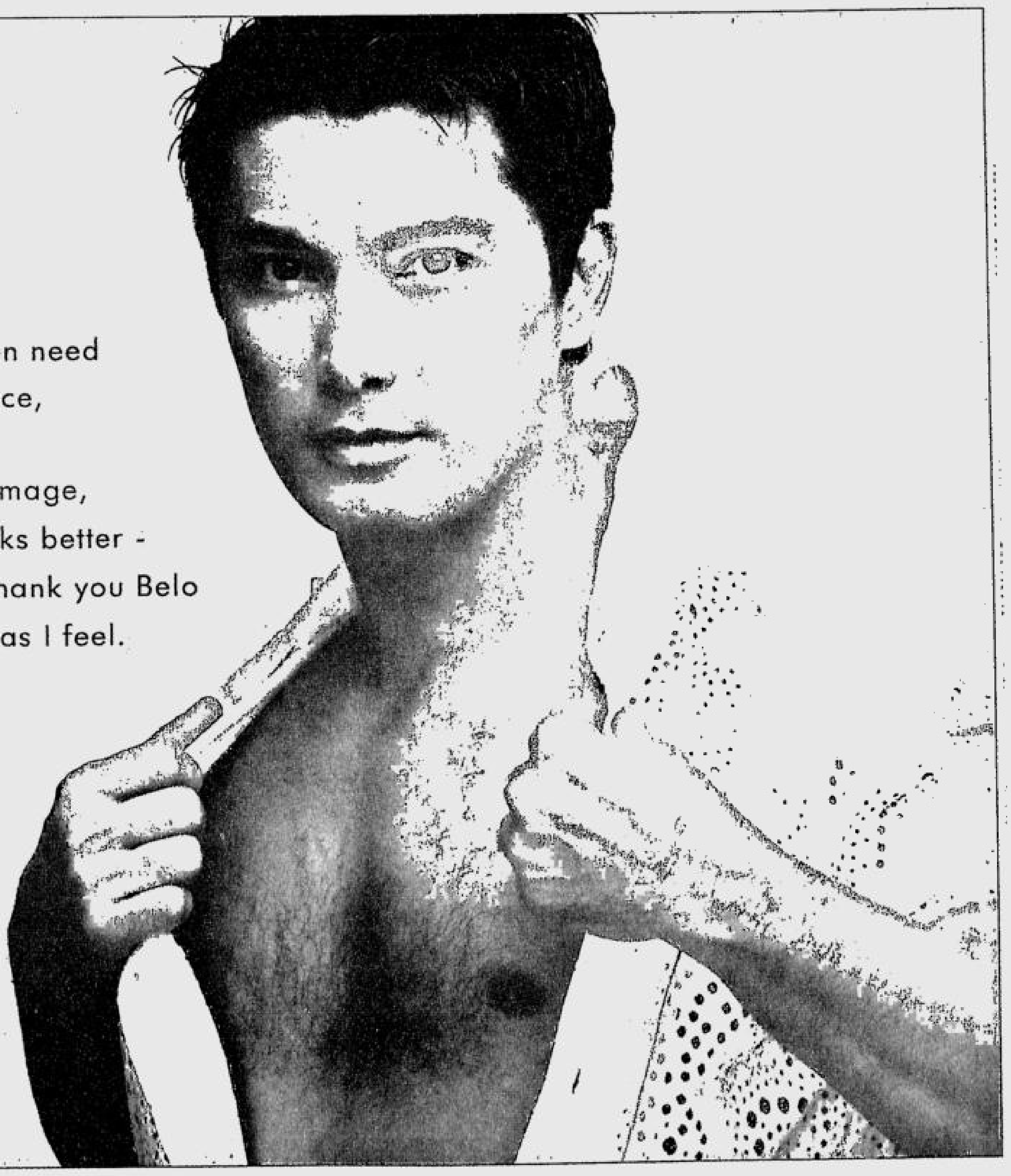
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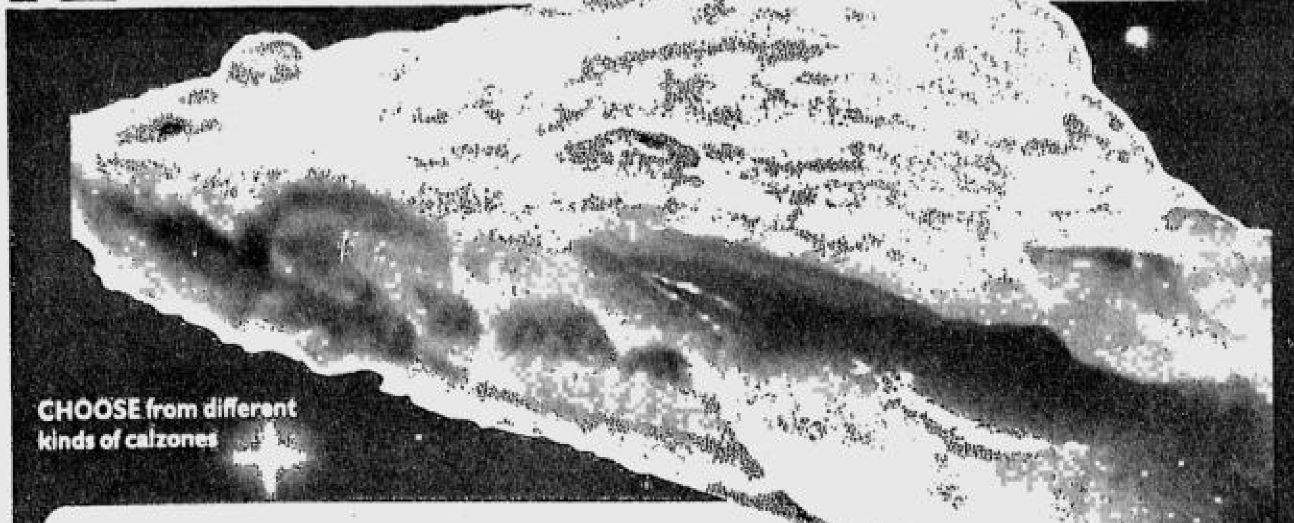
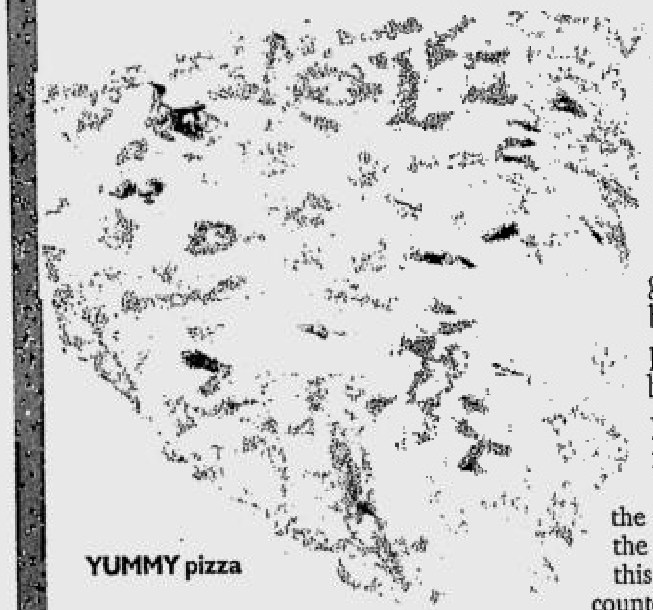

CHOOSE from different kinds of calzones

Post-midnight pizza and more

Aside from being a 24-hour grocery, Cost U Less is now another early-morning food place you should add to your list

By Zee Castro
2bU! Correspondent

IF YOU SUDDENLY GET A craving for pizza past midnight, head to Cost U Less in C5 Libis. The shopping warehouse offers more than just bundles of grocery goods.


YUMMY pizza

Open 24 hours a day, it houses Napoletano's Pizza Italiano, which has been slowly generating buzz among pizza lovers because of its yummy Italian treats.

Situated near the cash registers of the shopping mart, this unassuming counter serves pizza slices that dwarf those of more well-established restos. The best deal of it all: Napoletano's serves pizza till 2:30 a.m.! Perfect for the after-gimmick snack.

You get an adequate helping of yummy pizza for P95. Choose from Cheese, Pepperoni or Combination.

Calzones are also offered for P95-99. You can choose from Pepperoni, Veggie, Cheese and Chicken Bake roll variants. But if you're not in the mood for these Italian treats, Napoletano's also offers All-Beef Hotdogs at P95.

From 12 midnight-8 a.m., breakfast staples such as Ham and Eggs, Spanish Omelette, Bacon and Eggs are available.

Cost U Less also houses other food joints such as Jumbo Japs Express (open until 9 p.m.), Gloria Jeans Coffee, and Uncle Phil's Australian-Style Food which serves burgers, chips, Australian Yiros (*shawarmas*) and donuts. They're all open till 1:30 a.m.

Cost U Less is along C5, Libis, a few meters away from the Ortigas-C5 intersection.

E-mail the author at zeecastro @yahoo.com

Fast chow, 24/7

From page C1

clock. "We don't think the market is ripe enough for 24-hour delivery," Sison says.

McDonald's

"Love ko 'to..." and now, people can debate on who or what Grimace is supposed to be 'til early morning.

Satisfying cravings: "McDonald's went into the open-24-hours and delivery service in response to the changing eating habits of the Filipinos and for those who crave for their favorite Big Mac and French fries or any other McDonald's food any time of the day," says public relations officer Kelvin Villafuerte. "Extending our trading hours was also a means of catering to a growing population of workers from call centers."

Ice cream on the go: McDonald's is the first and only fast-food resto that delivers French fries and sundaes. "We're proud to announce that here in McDonald's, all menu items are available for delivery 24/7," says Villafuerte. They also guarantee 30-minute deliveries.

Where to go: McDonald's has 250 stores, 30 of which are open 24 hours. For deliveries, dial 8-Mcdo (that's 8-6236), or visit www.8mcdo.com. For provincial orders, dial 1-800-1000-8-MCDO (PLDT subscribers) or 1-800-300-8-MCDO (Digitel subscribers).

Wendy's

"Anytime is the best time for Wendy's!"

Convenience: Wendy's went the 24-hour route 15 years ago to make sure that people "eat great, even late." "The first strategy was to be beside a convenience store in order to serve the customers 24 hours a day," explains Wendy's marketing manager Irene Moran.

First 24-hour delivery: Wendy's was the first-ever to offer the 24-hour delivery service when it first opened its 24-hour store. Just dial 5333333.

No breakfast for some: "Everything is available at Wendy's 24 hours a day, except for some select stores that don't serve breakfast," Moran says.

Best-selling burgers: After-hour bestsellers are the same burgers customers crave during the day: Wendy's Bacon Mushroom Melt, Wendy's Big Classic, Wendy's Bacon Cheeseburger, "plus a surge of home-brewed Wendy's Iced Tea and pre-packed Wendy's Fresh Salads," says Moran.

Branching out: Wendy's currently has 39 branches in Metro Manila, where 13 outlets are open 24/7.

ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT G. RODRIGUEZ

Jollibee

Now you can sit and debate whether Jollibee is a male or female—any time of the day.

Call center key: Jollibee marketing officer Trixie Aguinaldo said that opening up the store for 24 hours was "Jollibee's response to the growing needs of our customers, especially now that there is an emergence of 24-hour call centers in key cities in the country. Providing the night-shift workforce with convenient service and value-for-money, *langhap-sarap* food is Jollibee's way of bringing happiness to our working adult patrons."

Hold the ice cream: The all-time favorite Jollibee products like Chickenjoy and Yumburgers are available from 10 p.m.-6 a.m. at all 24-hour Jollibee stores. But their ice cream machines stop churning out frozen dairy goodness past 9 p.m.

Coming soon: 24-hour delivery. "Yes, we do have plans of offering a 24-hour delivery service," says Aguinaldo. "In fact, we are pilot-testing the 24-hour Jollibee Delivery Service in five areas in Metro Manila: Makati Avenue, Dapitan, Ortigas, Quezon Avenue and Edsa Arayat. Just dial 87000 to enjoy your favorite Jollibee products any time of the day."

"Langhap-Sarap," 24/7: Out of the 508 Jollibee stores around the country, 40 operate 'round the clock.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
TV GUIDE

Laura Jean
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Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
NBN	Value Vision		Value Vision	New Life TV Shopping		Teledyaryo	Diyos Ko, Mahal Mo Ba Sila?	Talk Ko 'To		Tinig ng Bayan (Live)		Teledyaryo				Krusada Kontra Krimen			
ABS-CBN 2	Kapamilya Cinema				Pasion de Amor	Mr. Bean	Naruto	Opids	Meteor Garden Season 2	TV Patrol World	Mga Anghel Na Walang Langit	Ikaw Ang Lahat Sa Akin	Kampanerang Kuba	Pinoy Big Brother	Green Rose	Yes Yes Show			Insider
ABC 5			EZ Shop		World Tennis Masters 2005				Sentro	Brunei Cup					Big News	Dokyu		ESPN Golf	
GMA 7	Kung Mamahalin Mo Lang Ako	Now and Forever	Hotelier	12 Kingdoms	Slam Dunk	All For Love		24 Oras		Extra Challenge		Darna	Encantadia	Sugo	Attic Cat	Nuts Entertainment			Saksi
RPN 9	TV Shopping		Defenders Of The Earth	Hey Arnold!	Wild Thornberries	Sponge Bob	Global Battle Of The Bands	Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	Iron Chef		Trading Spouses		Extreme Make-Over		Newswatch Now	Keep up the Good Work w/ Joey Lina		Safe Ka Ba?
IBC 13		EZ Shop		EZ Shop		Home Shopping Network	IBC Express Balita	Lifestyle		MTV		Japan Video Topic		Navy Medicine At War	BYK 101	Up Close And Personal	IBC News Tonite	MTV	
SBN 21		New Life TV Shop		New Life TV Shop				EZ Shop				Oras Ng Himala		Oras ng Katotohanan		Superfine Tv Shopping		Shepherd's Voice	
Studio 23								Batman Beyond	Beyblade	Wazzup Wazzup	Mutant X	C.S.I (8:15 PM)		Las Vegas		News Central	Oprah		Travel Show
MTV Philippines	Bored	Whatever Things	MTV Pop Inc		Newlyweds	Hanging Out At MTV	MTV Got Spotted	TRL		Massive	MTV Play	Diyes		Mole: 5 Things About Kanye West	MTV Lokal	Wild N' Out	Boiling Points	MTV Play	VH1 Video Collections
MYX	Star MYX	Urban MYX	Rock MYX	OPM MYX	My MYX	Take 5	MYX Backtrax	MYX Firsts	Mellow MYX	Pop MYX	Urban MYX	MYX Daily Top Ten		MYX Live!		My MYX	OPM MYX	MYX Backtrax	Mellow MYX
CNN		Business International		Larry King Live		World News	World Sport	Business International		World News	World Sport	World News Asia		World News	World Sport	World News Asia		Your World Today	
ESPN	Major League Baseball						Solheim Cup Carmel				Goals!	Sportscenter Asia	Pool/Snooker World Pool Masters '04 Holland		Major League Baseball				
Solar Sports		TV Shopping	Boxing: Rahman vs. Barrett						FIVB World Grand Prix '05				Sports Desk	Phil. 9-Ball Open 2005				TV	NBA Inside Stuff
Sports Plus					Inside the PGA	Jeld-Wen Tradition Highlights		2005 Real Madrid Asian Tour				Slipstream	Nopi Tunervision	Lock and Load	BD Oahu	Ultimate Fighting Championship			
Cinemax				Rabbit-Proof Fence			Murder In Paradise				Final Destination 2			Countdown			Beverly Hills Cop II		
Hallmark Channel	Bewitched	Agency II		HCA: The Fairytaler	Sesame Street		Mad About You	Bewitched	Ladies Man	Just Cause		Agency II		Cactus Kid			Strong Medicine (10:35PM)		Just Cause (11:25PM)
Disney Channel	Mr. Bean: The Animated Series	Totally Spies	Art Attack/Untalkative Bunny	So Little Time	Mickey Mouse and Friends	Martin Mystery	Totally Spies	Kim Possible	Mr. Bean: The Animated Series	House Of Mouse	Wonderful World Of Disney			So Little Time	Sabrina, The Animated Series	Mickey Mouse and Friends	Chip N Dale's Rescue Rangers	Wonderful World Of Disney	
Discovery Channel		Science Mysteries		Science Frontiers		The Future Is Wild		Human Instinct		Khubilai Khan Fall Of The Mongol Hordes		Hour China		Wild Tech		The True Curse Of The Mummy		Hour Asia	
National Geographic		Showreel Asia		Going To More Extremes		Sea Hunters		Dogs With Jobs	Toyota World Of Wildlife	Wow!		About Asia		Megacities Week		Showreel Asia		Going To Extremes: The Silk Route	
Cartoon Network	Scooby-Doo Show	The All New Popeye Show		Tom & Jerry Show	The Woody Woodpecker Show	X-Men Evolution	Static Shock	Mucha Lucha!	Megas XLR	SD Gundam Force	Machine Robo-Rescue	Toonami: Beyblade V Force Marathon			Johnny Bravo	Time Squad	Thundercats	Mucha Lucha!	Megas XLR
Nickelodeon	Blues Clues/ What Planet Are You From	Rugrats	Hey Arnold!	My Life As A Teenage Robot/ Right On Top	The Adventures Of Jimmy Neutron	Fairly Odd Parents	My Life As A Teenage Robot/ Naturally Sadie/ All Grown Up/ Viewer's Choice						All Grown Up	As Told By Ginger	Rocket Power	Chalkzone	The Wild Thornberrys	The Angry Beavers	Are You Afraid of the Dark?
Lifestyle Network	Country Style	Interiors By Design	Decorating With Style	Decorating Cents	Molto Mario	Sweet Dreams	30 Minute Meals	Bill Boggs Corner	Unwrapped	Wolfgang Puck's	Child Stars Of The 80's		Style Star	Life & Style		Clean House		Breathing Room	Genuine Article
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AXN		House		Las Vegas		Ripley's Believe It or Not		The Legend Of Condor Hero	The Legend Of Condor Hero	The Amazing Race 5		Maximum Exposure (Season II)		Ultimate Guinness World Records	Ultimate Guinness World Records	CSI: Miami (Season 3)			Now See This (Season II)
JackTV	Shorties Watching Shorties	South Park	Banzai	Wwe Raw				Filter	Just For Laughs	Mad TV		Dr. Katz	Premium Blend	Shorties Watching Shorties	The Daily Show With Jon Stewart	Mad TV		The Sib Show	Street Smarts
ETC		Committed	Knock First	Blind Date	Fifth Wheel	Elimidate	Change of Heart	Seinfeld	Ambush Makeover	Complete Savages	What I Like About You	Veronica Mars		Last Comic Standing		Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno	
HBO			Virginia's Run			Helter Skelter (5:15PM)					Cruel Intentions 3			The Glimmer Man			Sex And The City 82: The Catch	Sex And The City 83: A Woman's Right To Shoes	Top Gun (11:35PM)
Star Movies		Opening Night	Intimate Deceptions			The Bread My Sweet			Face/Off (6:45PM)					Dangerous Waters: Shark Attack			Phone Booth		
Cinema One		Boy Negro				Magnifico				Urban Rangers			Persona	Pinakamagandang Hayop Sa Balat Ng Lupa				Gumapang Ka Sa Lusak	
EWTN	The Sacraments Through The Ages	Angelus (3:15 PM)	Refurbishing The Soul	Faith Factor C	Story Keepers	Rosary With Mother Angelica	EWTN Gallery	EWTN Catholic Classic	The Church And The Poor: Building Bridges	Mother Angelica Live Classics		Daily Mass Live		Angelus (9:15 PM)	One In Their Hearts: Holiness Of Priesthood	Deep Conversation: Deep Prayer	The Virtues, Seven Habits Of Champions	The Abundant Life	

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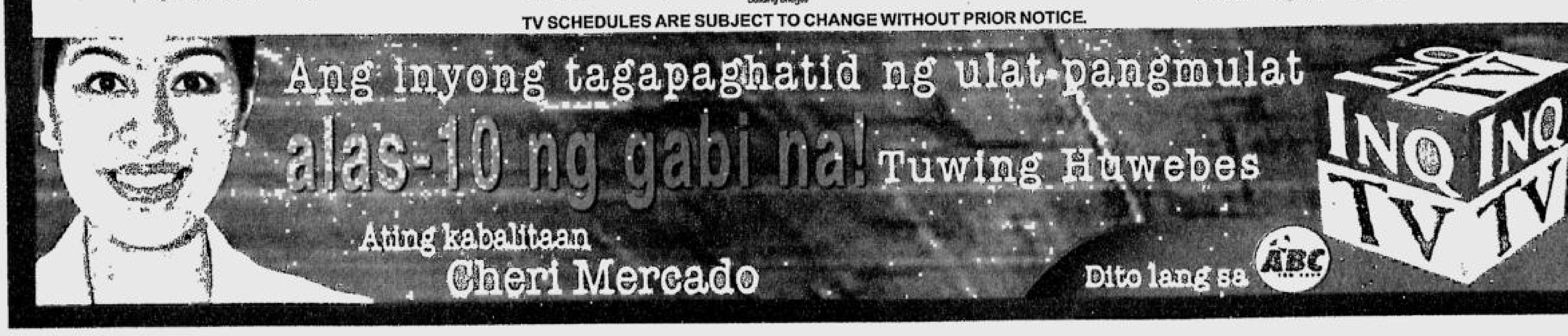
Ang inyong tagapaghatid ng ulat-pangmulat
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A gym buff's ultimate domain

Text and photos by Katrina Yap
2bU! Correspondent

IN TODAY'S EVER-COMPETITIVE AND demanding environment, there is a struggle to live a balanced life. And more often than not, fitness and health are sacrificed, and are left at the bottom of our priority list.

But with the birth of Planet Infinity, the first 24-hour gym in the country, most of us will be left with no excuse.

"This is out of the box, it's something new," says Benjie Magsino, general manager of Planet Infinity. "Lifestyles are changing, and there are no nine-to-five jobs anymore."

Ungodly hours

One can actually come in at Planet Infinity at 4 a.m. to work out. But who wants to go to the gym and exercise at those ungodly hours, anyway?

"You'd be surprised," says sales executive Jeredan Conde, who's part of the group that developed the idea of a 24-hour gym. "Our clients include celebrities, high-profile businessmen and entrepreneurs, doctors from St. Luke's and Capitol (Medical Centers), recording artists."

"We also have some call center employees, insomniacs and fitness buffs," adds Magsino. The gym, being open round-the-clock, permits these customers to find time to exercise even with their erratic schedules.

The idea of a 24-hour gym arose out of the gym experiences of the people managing Planet Infinity. All fitness enthusiasts, they were enrolled in various gyms here and abroad. They eventually realized that these places shared one thing in common: they closed their doors a bit too early.

Conde was dissatisfied with the service he was getting in local gyms. "I was kind of disappointed with some trainers who didn't even know what they were talking about," he says.

Magsino, for his part, says he wanted a gym that would take care of its members before, during, and after a workout.

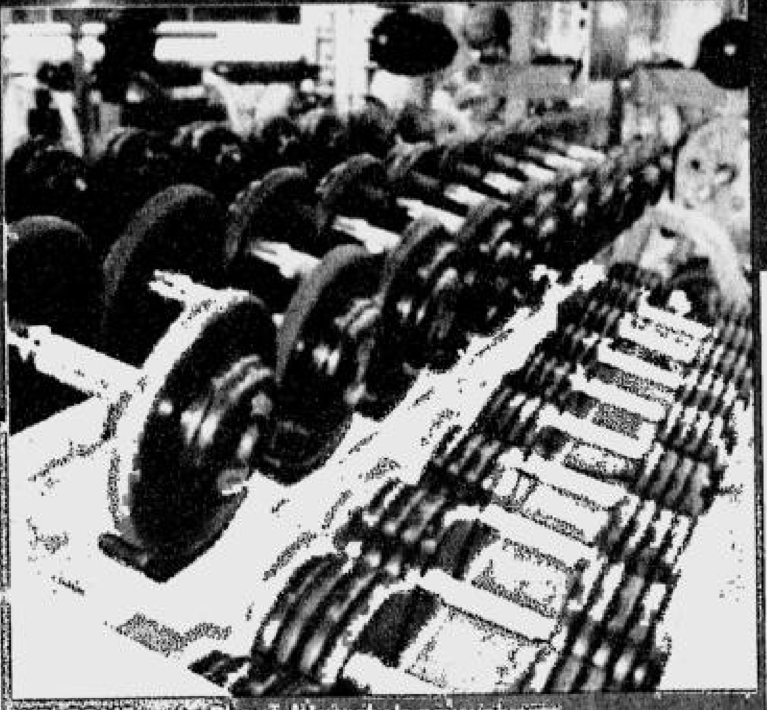
So they talked about putting up their own exercise place, one that addressed their concerns and offered more value to the regular gym-goer. The result is Planet Infinity, their ideal gym.

Wellness center

Planet Infinity prides itself with being more than just a 24-hour gym. "We're more than a fitness center, we're a wellness center," Magsino points out. That means before members can start working out, they first have to undergo an evaluation to set health and fitness goals. The trainers then develop exercise programs tailor-fit to the customer's fitness requirements.

Planet Infinity has top-of-the-line facilities, including Precor Icarian exercise machines and Startrac treadmills. It has free weights and resistance machines, and spacious group exercise rooms. It also offers classes such as Taebo, Latin dance, Pilates and even wrestling and Wushu.

It doesn't have spinning classes, but get this: the gym has a 30-ft wall climbing area, and set to open late this year are Jacuzzis plus a 15-m three-lane pool that's 4.5 m deep.



WELCOME to the Planet. It's a whole new universe

Planet Infinity also offers personal training services to ensure that members stay on track in achieving their health targets. The trainers are all fitness professionals, with backgrounds in physical therapy and sports education. Some are even certified by the American Council on Exercise. Magsino himself is a local fifth dan Taekwondo pioneer, and has been involved in martial arts since 1974.

Spa, lounge

The service doesn't end there. Members can recover from a tiring workout with a massage at the Sensasia spa. The spa has four electric Shiatsu machines (iMedic chairs from Osim) that will provide instant relaxation to tired muscles.

And, since a good exercise should be rewarded with a good meal, there's the gym's Energy Lounge. Conde's sister, Dahlia, is head chef of the Energy Lounge. A culinary and pastry arts graduate of the CCA who's also interested in fitness and nutrition, she created the unique menu, which itemizes the nutritional information of each meal.

Customers can choose from a low-carb or high-protein menu depending on their fitness program, and they know exactly how much protein, fat and carbs they're consuming.

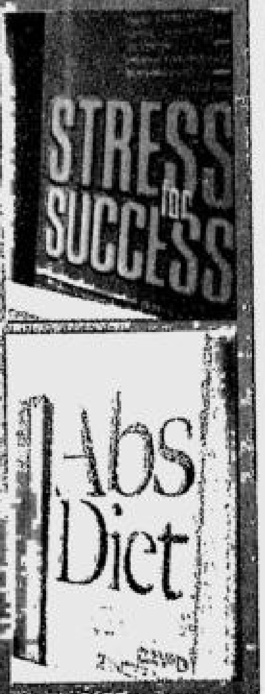
Planet Infinity is also a great place to hang out. It features live DJs Friday and Saturday nights, providing entertainment to those who'd rather sweat it out in the gym than in clubs. And for those who want to read up on the latest health trends, Planet Infinity has a mini-library that has all sorts of fitness-related reading materials.

The gym's lounge is wifi-outfitted, so members can surf the web while in the gym. And the lounge is open even on Sundays, when the rest of the gym is closed (to allow for cleaning and maintenance).

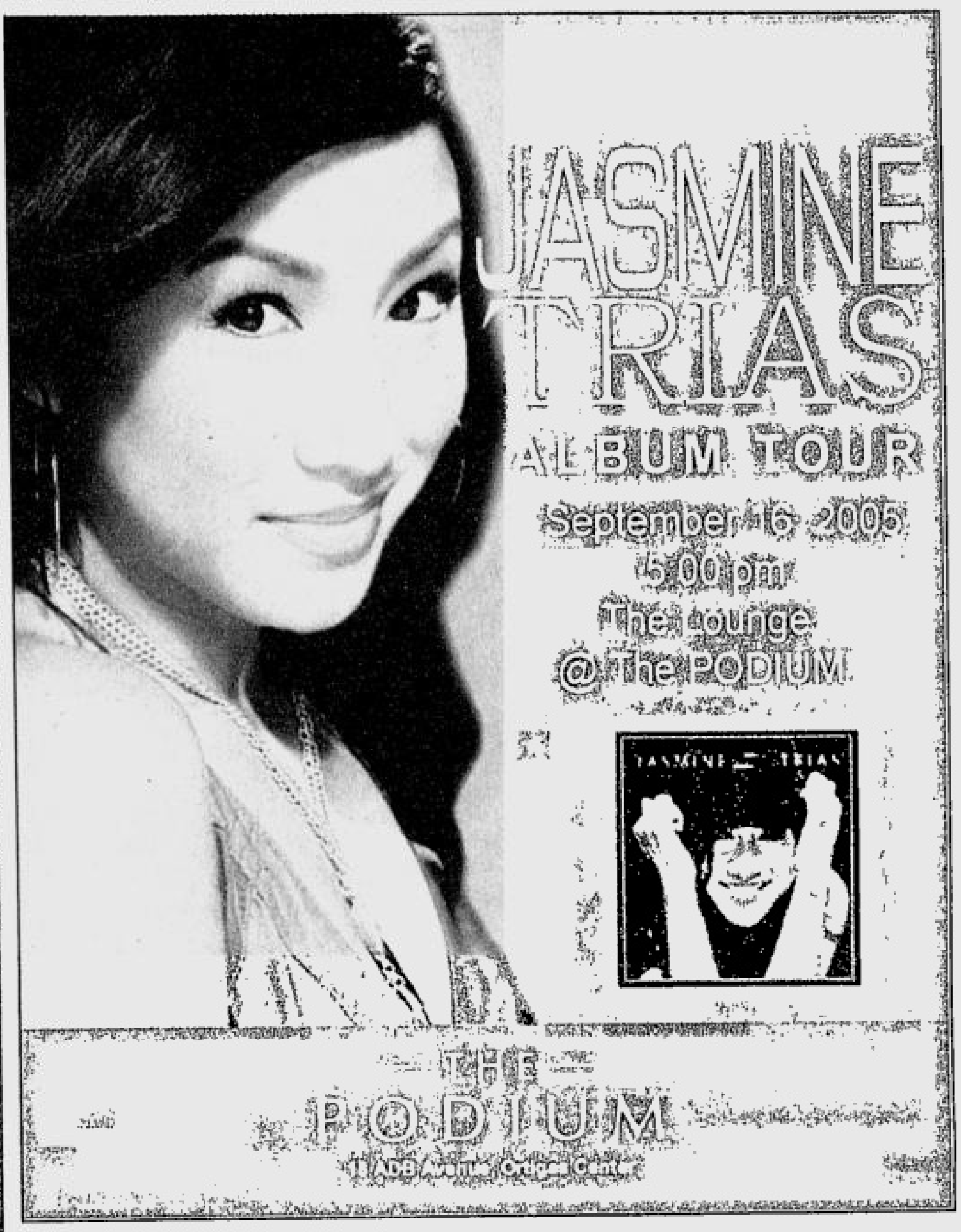
Planet Infinity is located at 4/F Crossroad 77 Bldg., Mother Ignacia Ave. cor. Scout Reyes St., Quezon City. Call 4107926.

E-mail the author at tri@i-manila.com.ph

ENDLESS runs

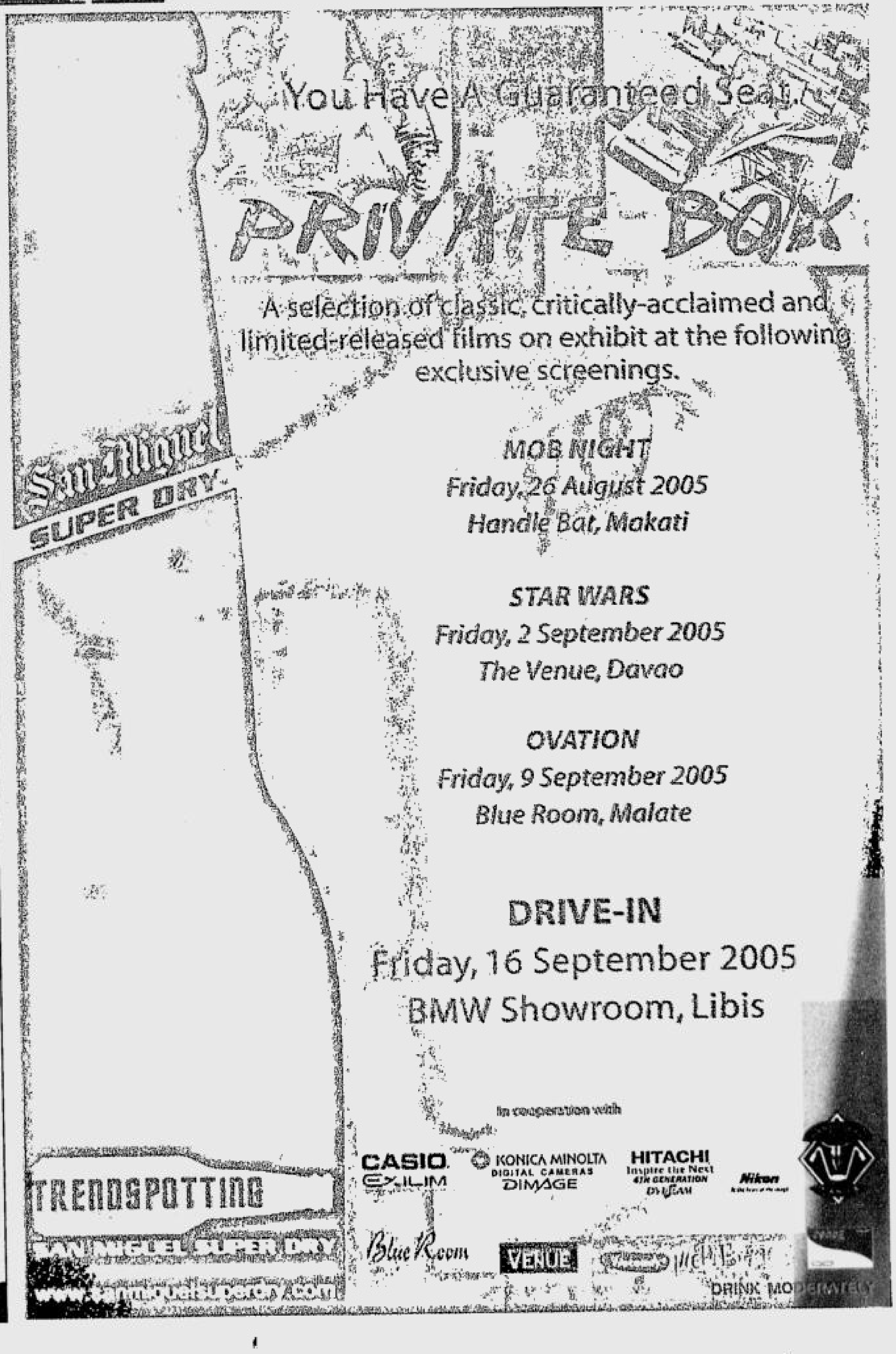


EXERCISE your brain at the mini library



JASMINE TRIAS
ALBUM TOUR
September 16 2005
5:00 pm
The Lounge
@The PODIUM

THE PODIUM
[illegible] ADB Avenue Ortigas Center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Friday, 26 August 2005
Handle Bar, Makati

STAR WARS
Friday, 2 September 2005
The Venue, Davao

OVATION
Friday, 9 September 2005
Blue Room, Malate

DRIVE-IN
Friday, 16 September 2005
BMW Showroom, Libis

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This is exclusively available to only 14 students for each batch.
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Deadline for registration is at 12 noon on September 24, 2005 (Saturday)

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The regular 1-month schedule begins on September 20 and concludes on October 14, 2005.
This is exclusively available to only 10 students for each course.
Applicants are urged to register immediately.
Deadline for registration is at 12 noon on September 17, 2005 (Saturday)

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Cook 5-star restaurant quality food and match it with the appropriate wine in the country's most hip and modern culinary school. If you want to impress your dinner guests and use some culinary jargon as efficiently as possible then this course is for you. Learn to handle and match wine with items like foie gras, figs, lamb, truffles, duck ...the works. A course for the bold and daring!!!

Course begins on September 27 and ends on October 6, 2005.
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Deadline for registration is at 12 noon on September 17, 2005

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JACUZZI bliss anytime you want

Thanks to The Westin Sports Club and Spa, which stays open 24 hours, getting pampered in the middle of the night is no longer unheard of

IT'S never too late for a massage

Midnight Massage

By Pam Pastor

IT STARTED LIKE ANY OTHER SPA appointment—I deposited my things into the locker and went for a warm shower before heading to the treatment area, ready to be pampered.

There was only one difference—it was almost 3 a.m.

Thanks to The Westin Sports Club and Spa (at the Westin Philippine Plaza Hotel, CCP Complex, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City, tel. 8326904 or 5515555 local 1586), which is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week, people can enjoy relaxing treats and pampering packages anytime they want.

Had a wild night out with friends? Close your eyes, forget the smoke and noise and enjoy a Relaxing Massage.

Dumped in the middle of the night? Why not have a Seaweed Body Wrap and let the therapist scrub your pain away?

Did you just arrive after a long flight? Go for the Jet Lag Massage.

Do you live an unbelievably busy life? Have your facial, waxing, manicure and pedicure done in the middle of the night.

My chosen treatment was the Foot Reflex Therapy. I walked into the treatment room, aptly called the Sole Sanctuary. It was filled with comfortable, plush chairs—they remind me of First Class plane seats. Soothing music played while a huge flat screen in front of the room showed images of beautiful places taken around the world.

I sank back into my seat and the treatment began. My feet were soaked in a warm tea mixture. Then Faye, my therapist, began massaging my head, neck, shoulders and arms. Soon, she started working on my feet. She said I might feel a little pain, which is common for people who are trying foot reflexology for the first time.

Foot reflexology is the ancient form of pressure treatment. It involves applying pressure to "reflex" points located in the foot which correspond to other areas in the body. As Faye worked on my feet, I checked the reflexology foot map on the wall in front of me, trying to figure out which parts of my body she was working on. Heart, brain, nose, stomach, thyroid gland, sex glands, intestines—these were just a few body parts found on the foot map. Faye also massaged my legs—a real treat. Then, when it was over, she wrapped my legs and feet with a hot towel. That was heavenly.

When the Foot Reflex Therapy was over, I moved to another treatment room for the Youth Facial. The therapist's touch was so light, I had to fight off sleep.

Extensive menu of treatments

Aside from the Sole Sanctuary, The Westin Sports Club and Spa has different facilities to cater to different needs—11 massage, facial and body treatment rooms, Suite Romance Thai-inspired Massage Room for Couples, oxygen bar with massage chairs, gym with free weights and fitness machines, work-out studio with yoga, Pilates and cardio-kickboxing classes, Jacuzzi and sauna and dry steam. Their menu of treatments is extensive—nine different kinds of facials (including one for gentlemen), nine kinds of massages (including Pinoy Therapeutic Hilot) and eight body care treatments (including the delicious-sounding Coffee and Cream Scrub and Honey Almond Body Scrub). Other services like manicure and pedicure are also offered. Three romantic packages for two are also offered, which can include champagne, a candlelit whirlpool bath, spa treatments for two people and a gourmet meal, depending on the package chosen.

The greatest thing about enjoying spa treatments in the middle of the night is you can maximize the pleasure and relaxation by heading straight home after for a good night's rest. And that's exactly what I did.

But if you don't want to go home after your treatment, The Westin Philippine Plaza is also offering two kinds of Stay and Spa Packages—guests can stay at a deluxe room, heavenly bed room or corner suite and choose from a menu of treatments they have prepared. That's bliss multiplied.

For reservations, call 8326904 or 5515555 local 1586.

E-mail the author at ppastor@inquirer.com.ph.

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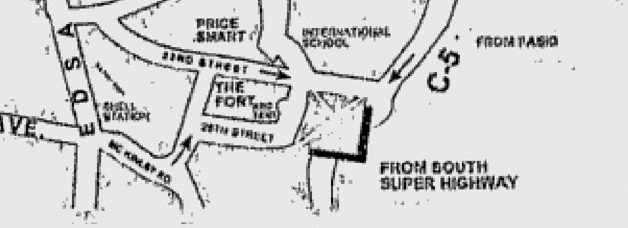
Sale!
Sale!

Christmas comes early to Market! Market!

Rush to Market! Market! for your Christmas shopping during the month-long sale from September 16 to October 16



September 15 and 16	September 16	Up to November 15	Up to February 15, 2006
The Magic of Curtis	Fireworks Display In front of Market! Market! Playzone	Movies and More Promo Watch a movie for a chance to get gifts from Taters, Netopia, Timezone, Subway and Muscle Beach. On your fifth cinema visit, get one movie pass free. See leaflets for details.	BPI-Nissan Raffle Promo For every P500 worth of purchase using your BPI card, you get a raffle coupon for a chance to win a Nissan Frontier T3 Titanium.

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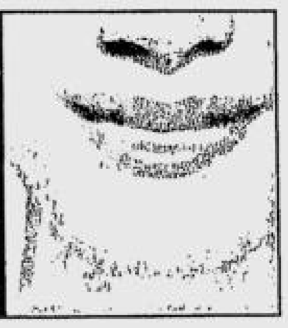


BOUNCE, BOUNCE. [illegible] Georgina Wilson

BAMBOO BLAST. Bamboo Mañalac in a trance as he sings the anthem of the youth at the Meg party

HAIL TO THE CHAMP. Champ of Hale savors it

CHITO CHUPS. Chito Miranda [illegible]

ENJOYIN' IT. Rico Blanco of Rivermaya at the Meg 7th bday party

DANCE DUO. Gabriel Valenciano with Laura [illegible]

MEG MATCH. VJ Claire Oliver and Pierra Calasanz

PHOTOS BY TIM YAP

Confessions of a night crawler

Tim Yap

I HAVE BEEN LIVING under the nocturnal microscope for close to a decade now, and for a 24-hour partyphile like myself, observing nightlife culture trends is like breathing oxygen.

Whenever I think of the scene's evolution, I ask many questions. How do I stay inspired and get fresh ideas regardless of other people's observation that the club scene is so... the same? Is the youth voice merely represented by kids having a good time? Or are there young ones out there who haven't lost heart and are still trying to make a stand?

I must say the cycle never stops. People come and go, some stay, some overstay—but age and looks should never be a deterrent to one's fun. New places sprout, giving birth to a new scene each week. More happenings continue to boom in the metropolis, giving life to an enlightened flock.

And I'm not only talking about bars and clubs (I don't want to be my own cliche). Young people have taken a great interest in art, photography, theater, poetry, alternative music and various fields of design.

To put it in another way, recreation in this side of town has taken a great leap of faith into the unknown—call it a retreat into one's self, an exploration to get real answers to questions that we have long avoided because of escapist intoxication.

Underground scene

In short, it's time to sober up and start having real relationships based on real emotions.

Speaking of emotions, the I Love You Store, the baby of edgy style shakers **Corinne Ching**, **Mimi Sanson** and **Sharon Atillo**, has moved to 7840 Pilar Building, Makati Avenue (right beside Government Club).

The girls have been rocking the scene from the time they started their artistic career and given space to unknown bands and artists. Wherever these pied pipers of the scene go, people will surely follow.

To mainstream

I dropped by the 7th birthday of Meg magazine—the younger sibling to Mega's fashion glossy.

The Loft was bright with wide-eyed kiddies (and not-so-kiddies, as seen on these pages) waiting for champion band Hale to come out, for **Gab Valenciano** to dance, and for Bamboo, Rivermaya and Parokya ni Edgar to dish out their latest hits.

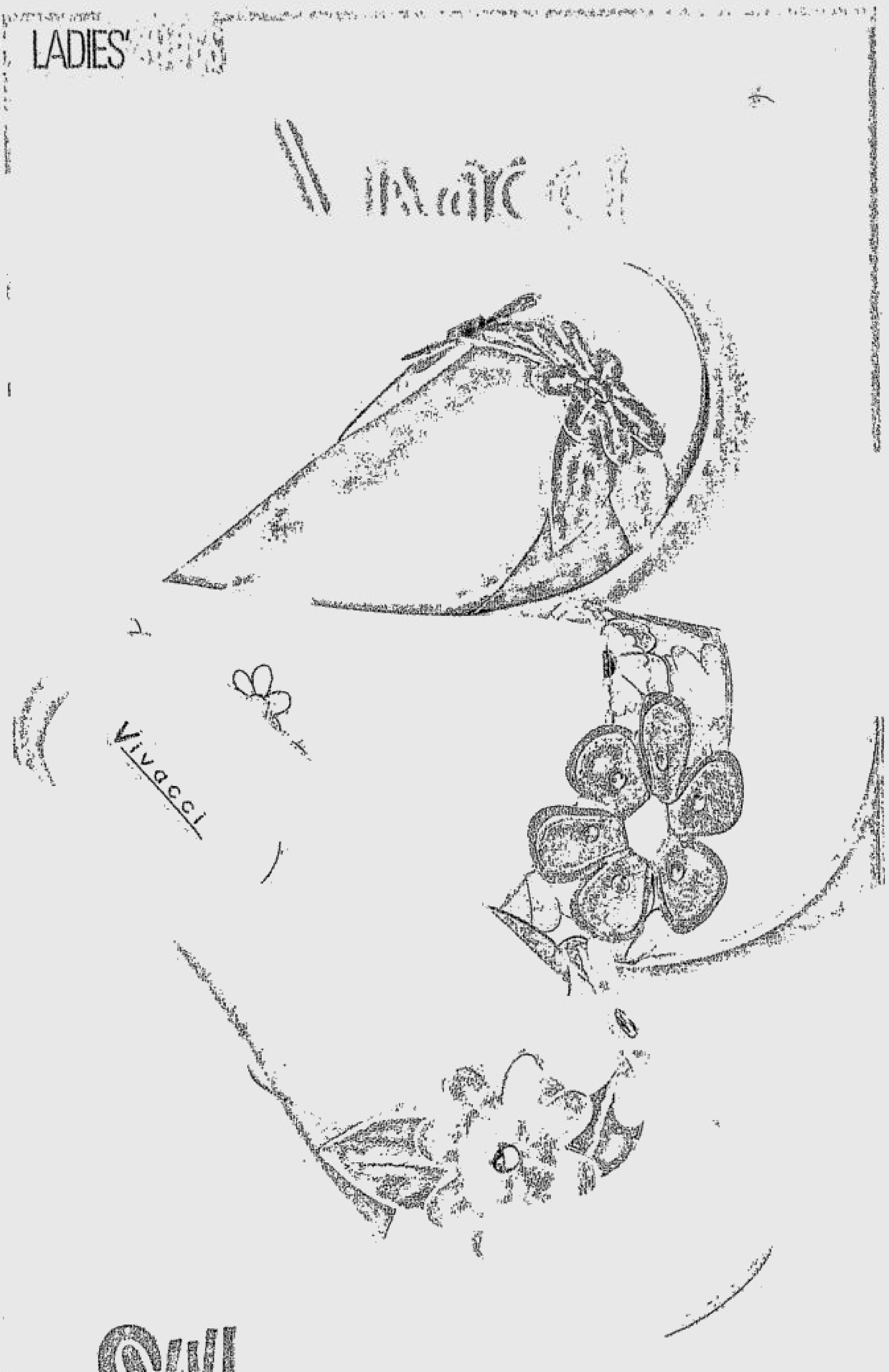
I especially make it a point to say "Happy Birthday Meg!" every year. I have witnessed the growth of editor in chief **Pierra Calasanz** from her Mega fashion days to her days now as Ms **Toto Labrador**. She remains at the helm of the "must-have-for-every-girl" mag.

Looking around, there was something comforting about the young partyphiles—the next generation—so wholesome and eager to partake in the action.

I hope that even when they "grow up," they will always maintain this sense of wonder and

CONFESSIONS/ D3

LADIES'



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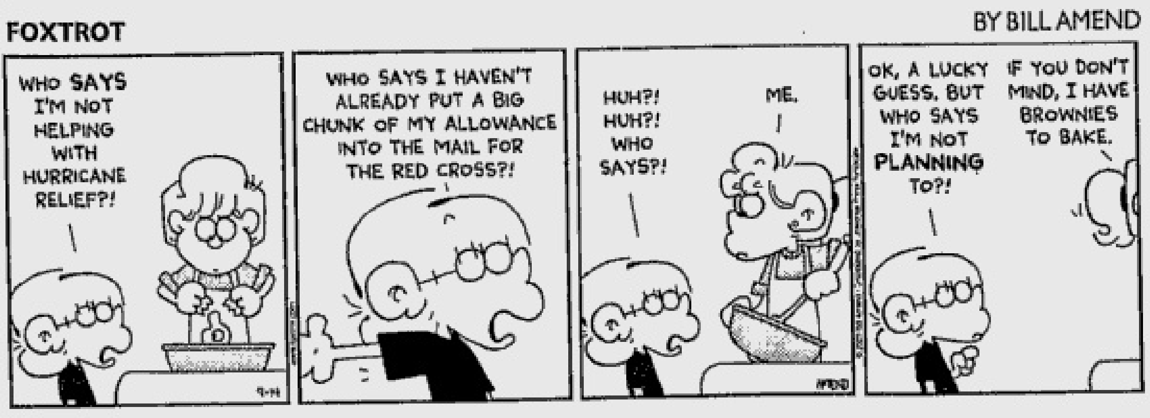
8 M C D O
8 6 2 3 6
MNO ABC DEF MNO
Dial 8-MCDO

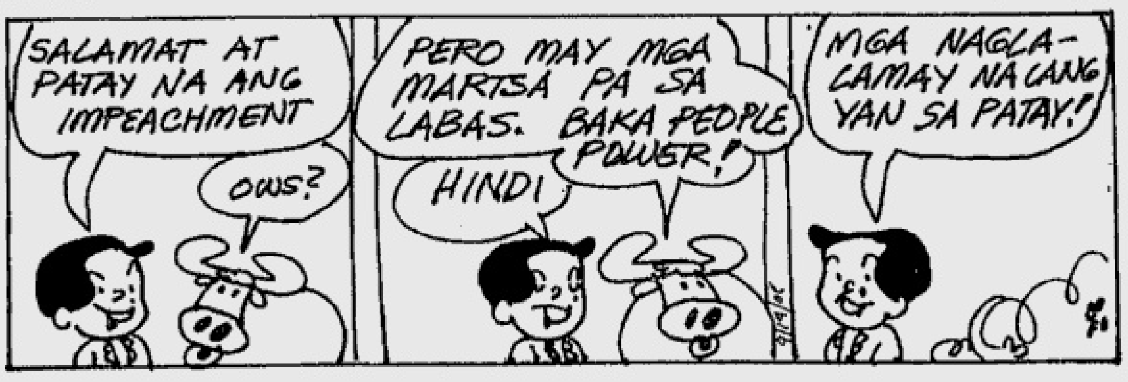
FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND


WHO SAYS I'M NOT HELPING WITH HURRICANE RELIEF?!
WHO SAYS I HAVEN'T ALREADY PUT A BIG CHUNK OF MY ALLOWANCE INTO THE MAIL FOR THE RED CROSS?!
HUH?! HUH?! WHO SAYS?!
ME.
OK, A LUCKY GUESS, BUT WHO SAYS I'M NOT PLANNING TO?!
IF YOU DON'T MIND, I HAVE BROWNIES TO BAKE.

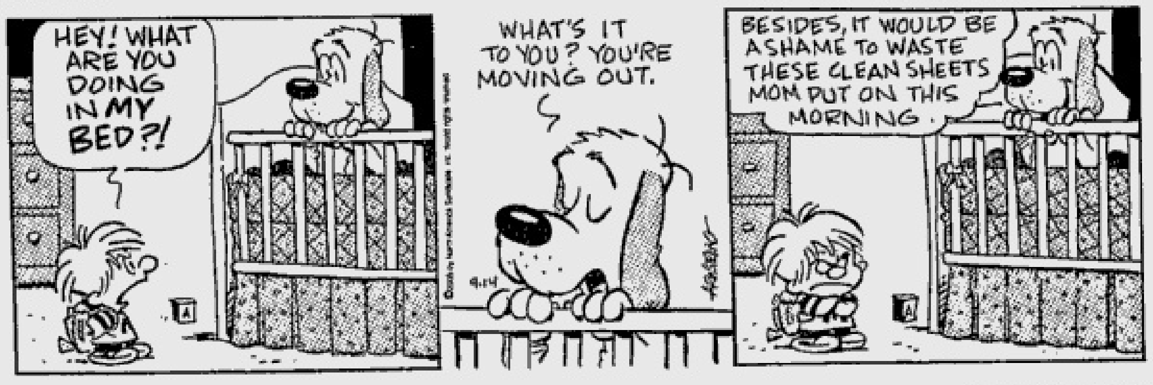
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


SALAMAT AT PATAY NA ANG IMPEACHMENT
OWS?
PERO MAY MGA MARTSA PA SA LABAS. BAKA PEOPLE POWER!
HINDI
MGA NAGLA-LAMAY NA LANG YAN SA PATAY!

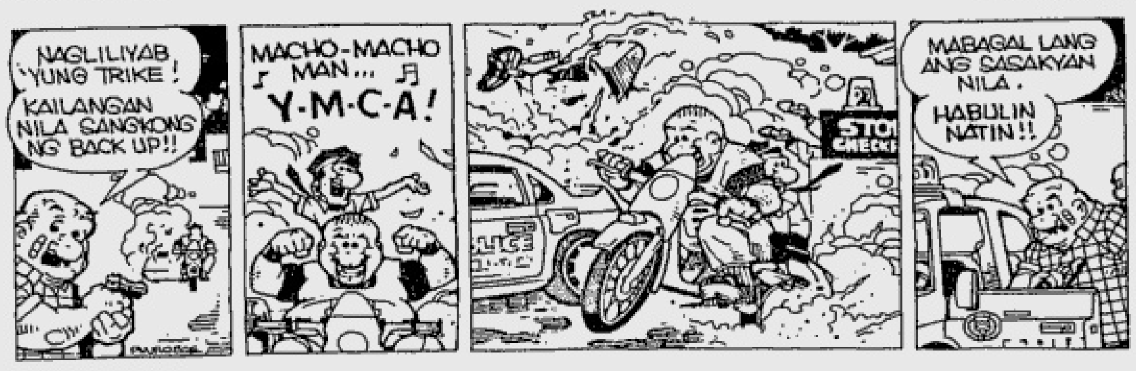
MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG


HEY! WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN MY BED?!
WHAT'S IT TO YOU? YOU'RE MOVING OUT.
BESIDES, IT WOULD BE A SHAME TO WASTE THESE CLEAN SHEETS MOM PUT ON THIS MORNING.

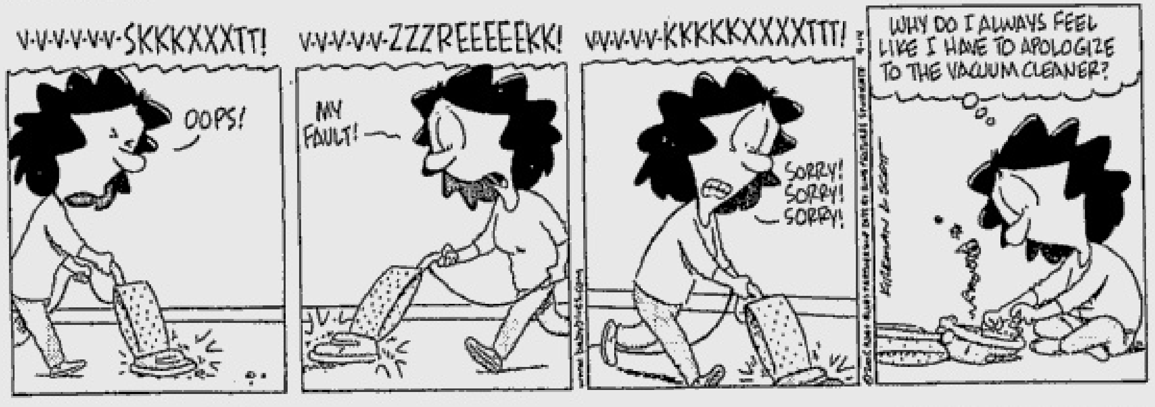
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


NAGLILIYAB 'YUNG TRIKE!
KAILANGAN NILA SANGKONG NG BACK UP!!
MACHO-MACHO MAN... Y-M-C-A!
STOP CHECK
MABAGAL LANG ANG SASAKYAN NILA.
HABULIN NATIN!!

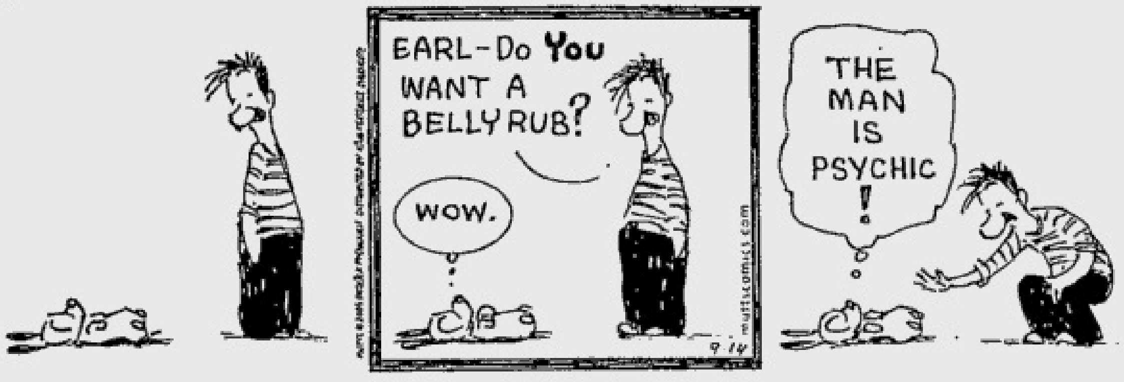
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


V-V-V-V-V-V-SKKKXXXTT!
OOPS!
V-V-V-V-V-ZZZREEEEEKK!
MY FAULT!
V-V-V-V-V-KKKKKXXXXTTT!
SORRY! SORRY! SORRY!
WHY DO I ALWAYS FEEL LIKE I HAVE TO APOLOGIZE TO THE VACUUM CLEANER?

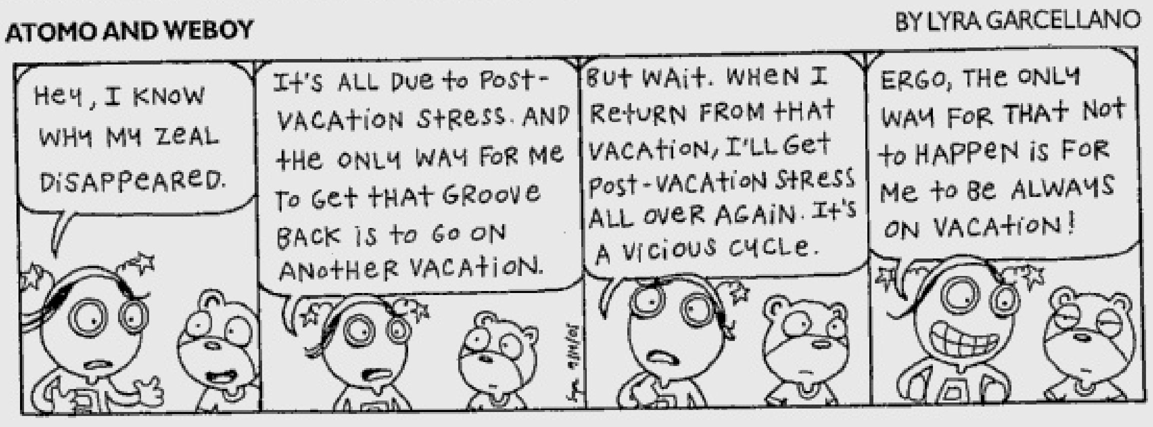
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


EARL-Do You WANT A BELLY RUB?
WOW.
THE MAN IS PSYCHIC!

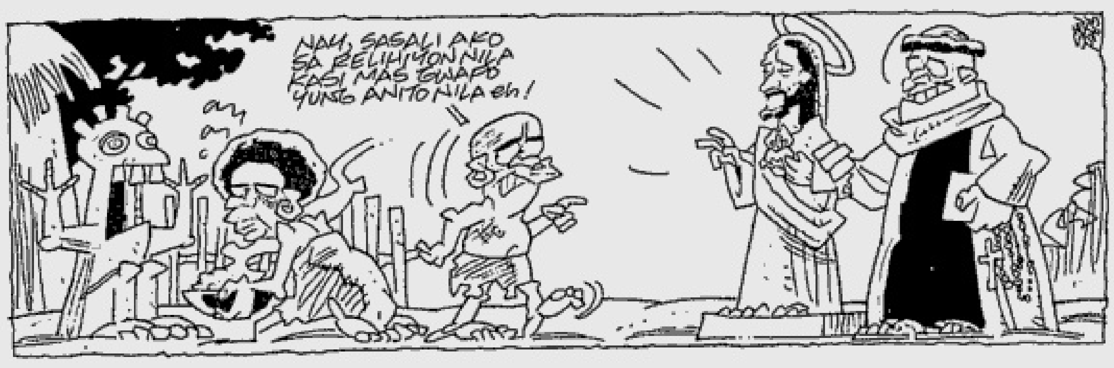
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


Hey, I KNOW WHY MY ZEAL DISAPPEARED.
IT'S ALL DUE TO POST-VACATION STRESS. AND THE ONLY WAY FOR ME TO GET THAT GROOVE BACK IS TO GO ON ANOTHER VACATION.
BUT WAIT. WHEN I RETURN FROM THAT VACATION, I'LL GET POST-VACATION STRESS ALL OVER AGAIN. IT'S A VICIOUS CYCLE.
ERGO, THE ONLY WAY FOR THAT NOT TO HAPPEN IS FOR ME TO BE ALWAYS ON VACATION!

DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS


NAH, SASALI AKO SA RELIHIYON NILA KASI MAS GWAPO YUNG ANITO NILA eh!
ay ay

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You're a natural researcher. You're detail-oriented, specific and observant. You're also efficient and productive. You easily create order out of chaos. Furthermore, you like doing so (even if you won't admit it). You are loyal to loved ones. Expect to make important choice in the year ahead. Whatever you choose will open doors that open doors that open doors, and so on.
Birthdate of: Melissa Leo, actress; Sam Neill, actor; Dan Cortese, actor.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Be diplomatic in suggesting ways to make improvements at work. You have good ideas about introducing reforms. Nevertheless, others might not agree with you.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Parents have strong opinions about what children should do today. Always remember the advice of Goethe: "Criticism does much, but encouragement does more."

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Quarrels with partners and family members are likely today. These can be avoided if you don't try to improve others or make them over in some way. (And don't let people do this to you.)

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Yesterday's strong energy might get out of hand today. Sometimes, if you give someone an inch, he or she takes a mile! Think before you speak today. (Lighten up.)

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): You feel obsessed about something connected with cash flow. Either you have to buy something or sell something, or you're determined to earn money in a certain way. Is this wise?

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Power struggles with family members are likely today. But as the old saying goes, it takes two to make a fight. (And three to make a brawl!) Instead, be patient. Listen to others.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Refrain from participating in underhanded or illegal activity today. Don't do things under the table. This is for your own protection. You'll get caught.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): You might attract people who are quite pushy with their ideas today. This is always so tiring. Be polite, but move on quickly to save yourself.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Power struggles with bosses, parents and authority figures are extremely likely today. Therefore, don't even go there. Don't buy the T-shirt. Don't even drive by.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): You might be quite fervent about a religious or political idea today. Alternatively, you might attract somebody like this to you. Either way, shouting doesn't make people hear you better, does it?

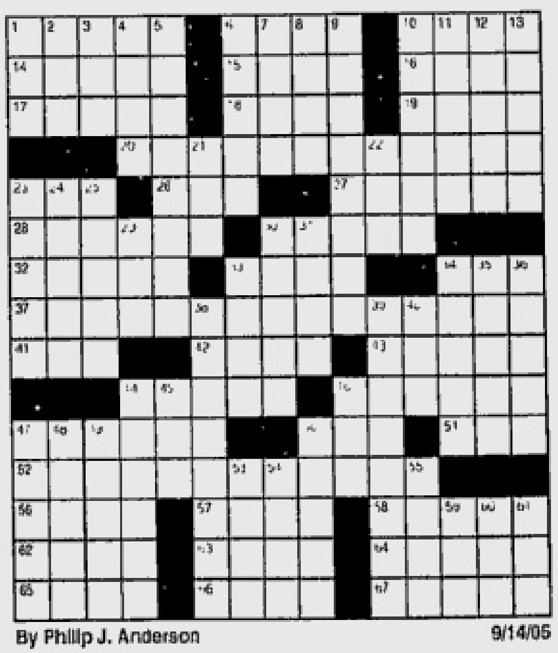
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): You might feel unfairly treated by someone. You're not happy with how things are divided today. You're certainly prepared to defend your fair share.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): It's tough to deal with people, especially authority figures, today. They're demanding! They might want you to account for yourself. Your best bet is to lie low. (You need this like a fish needs a bicycle.)

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 In reserve
6 Canasta display
10 While lead-in
14 Designer Ashley
15 Nobel winner Wiesel
16 Late-night Jay
17 Sturdy fabric
18 Skin: pref.
19 Alaska's first governor
20 Symbol of simplicity
23 Nav. by satellite
26 Gabor sister
27 Data on jackets
28 Blood conduit
30 Dens
32 Garry or Roger
33 Okefenokee resident
34 Writer LeShan
37 Symbol of sensitivity
41 Permit to
42 Sundance's girlfriend
43 Perfume allure
44 Domesticates
46 Widely scattered
47 Al of "Scarface"
50 Altar constellation
51 Sun. homily
52 Symbol of skepticism
56 Perjurer
57 Director Bunuel
58 Ticked off
62 Ingrid in "Casablanca"
63 Land measure
64 "The __ Sanction"
65 Highland loch
66 Hone
67 Haley book

DOWN
1 Aged
2 Scot's denial
3 Large cask
4 Song for Sills
5 Treated like a baby
6 Tragedy by Euripides
7 AC/DC power
8 Old Roma cash
9 Loss of rank
10 Puts into office
11 Kingly
12 Wind, as a river
13 Shadings
21 Collegiate league
22 Evergreen tree
23 Nasser's first name
24 Exploratory vessel
25 Portly
29 Directional ending
30 Plunders
31 Kodak competitor
33 Singer Seeger
34 Civil Rights martyr Medgar
35 Jam-packed
36 Daisylike flower
38 Car buyer's protection
39 Trellis
40 TV brand
44 Jeweled headdresses
45 Tropical cuckoo
46 Pedro's Mrs.
47 "Hemingway's Chair" author Michael
48 Spry
49 Boorish
50 Plus item
53 Hey, that hurts!
54 Conflagration
55 Small combo
59 Back in time
60 Hanoi holiday
61 Sounds of hesitation



By Philip J. Anderson
Portland, OR
9/14/05

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

V	F	W	■	S	O	N	A	R	S	■	F	I	A	T
E	L	I	■	A	P	O	L	L	O	■	U	C	L	A
R	U	N	S	P	E	L	L	S	U	B	J	E	C	T
A	B	E	L	■	N	A	Y	■	T	R	I	C	O	T
■	■	W	I	D	E	N	■	S	E	A	■	L	A	Y
B	E	A	D	E	D	■	P	U	R	S	U	E	■	■
A	L	I	■	C	U	T	I	E	■	S	K	A	T	E
L	I	L	T	■	P	A	N	D	A	■	E	N	Y	A
D	A	C	H	A	■	R	E	E	L	S	■	E	N	S
■	■	L	E	L	A	N	D	■	A	U	B	R	E	Y
M	V	I	■	I	F	S	■	A	C	E	R	S	■	■
A	I	M	I	N	G	■	A	B	A	■	I	D	E	A
S	T	A	T	E	H	U	M	O	R	G	O	O	D	S
K	A	T	E	■	A	S	T	U	T	E	■	C	A	P
S	E	E	M	■	N	E	S	T	E	D	■	K	M	S

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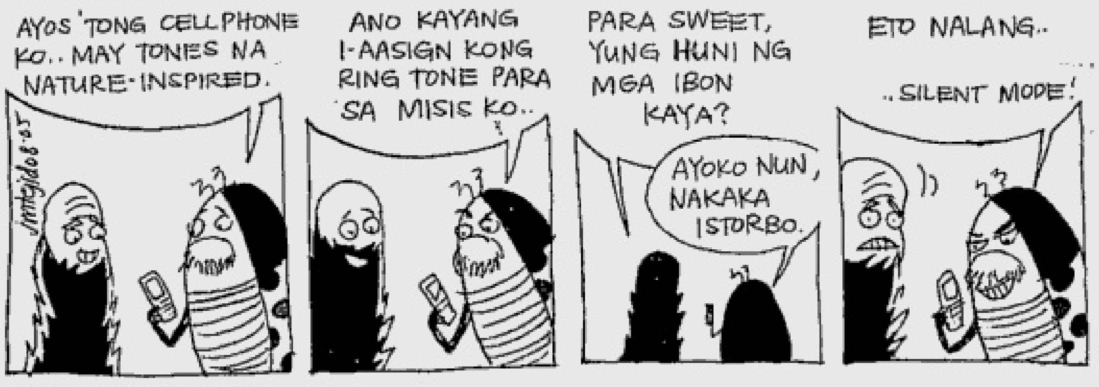
9/14/05

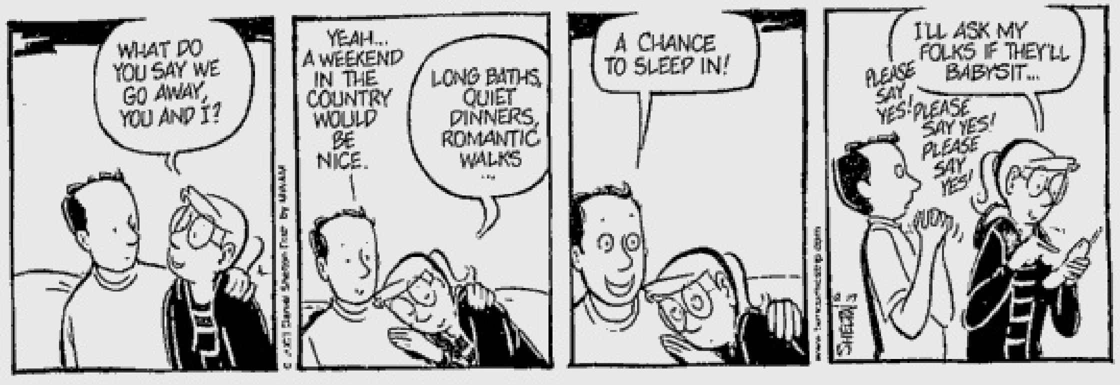
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


AYOS 'TONG CELLPHONE KO.. MAY TONES NA NATURE-INSPIRED.
ANO KAYANG I-AASIGN KONG RING TONE PARA SA MISIS KO..
PARA SWEET, YUNG HUNI NG MGA IBON KAYA?
AYOKO NUN, NAKAKA ISTORBO.
ETO NALANG..
..SILENT MODE!

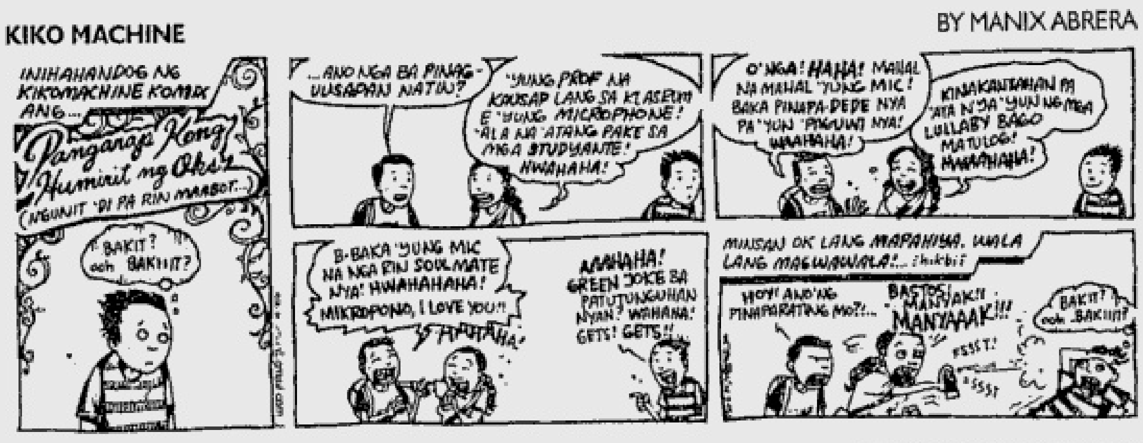
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


WHAT DO YOU SAY WE GO AWAY, YOU AND I?
YEAH... A WEEKEND IN THE COUNTRY WOULD BE NICE.
LONG BATHS, QUIET DINNERS, ROMANTIC WALKS...
A CHANCE TO SLEEP IN!
I'LL ASK MY FOLKS IF THEY'LL BABYSIT...
PLEASE SAY YES! PLEASE SAY YES! PLEASE SAY YES!

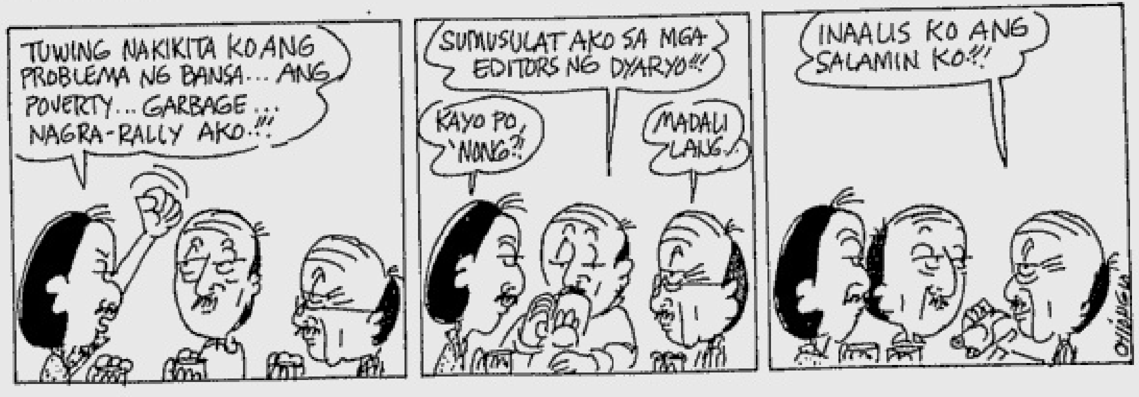
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


INIHAHANDOG NG KIKOMACHINE KOMIX ANG...
Panganay Kong Humirit ng Oks!
(NGUNIT 'DI PA RIN MAABOT...)
BAKIT? ooh BAKIIIT?
...ANO NGA BA PINAG-UUSAPAN NATIN?
'YUNG PROF NA KAUSAP LANG SA KLASE NI E 'YUNG MICROPHONE! 'ALA NA 'ATANG PAKE SA MGA ESTUDYANTE! HWAHAHA!
O'NGA! HAHA! MAHAL NA MAHAL 'YUNG MIC! BAKA PINAPA-DEDE NYA PA 'YUN 'PAGUWI NYA! WAHAHAHA!
KINAKANTAHAN PA 'ATA N'YA 'YUN NG MGA LULLABY BAGO MATULOG! MWAHAHAHA!
B-BAKA 'YUNG MIC NA NGA RIN SOULMATE NYA! HWAHAHAHA! MIKROPONO, I LOVE YOU!!
HAHAHA!
AAAHAHA! GREEN JOKE BA PATUTUNGUHAN NYAN? WAHAHA! GETS! GETS!!
MINSAN OK LANG MAPAHIYA. WALA LANG MAGWAWALA!... :hikbi:
HOY! ANO'NG PINAPARATING MO?!..
BASTOS! MANYAK!! MANYAAAK!!!
PSSST!
BAKIT? ooh BAKIIIT?

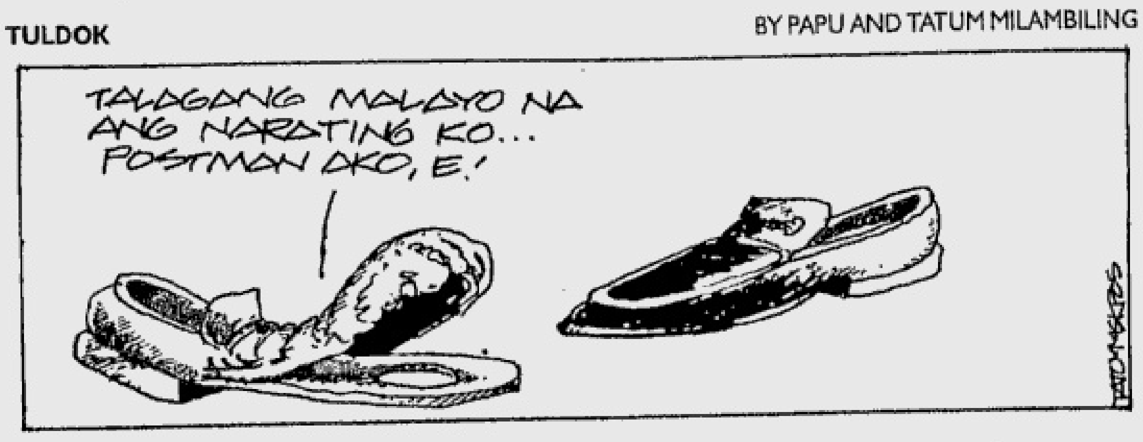
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


TUWING NAKIKITA KO ANG PROBLEMA NG BANSA... ANG POVERTY... GARBAGE... NAGRA-RALLY AKO.!!
SUMUSULAT AKO SA MGA EDITORS NG DYARYO!!!
KAYO PO, 'NONG?!
MADALI LANG.
INAAUS KO ANG SALAMIN KO!!!

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


TALAGANG MALAYO NA ANG NARATING KO... POSTMAN AKO, E.!

Confessions

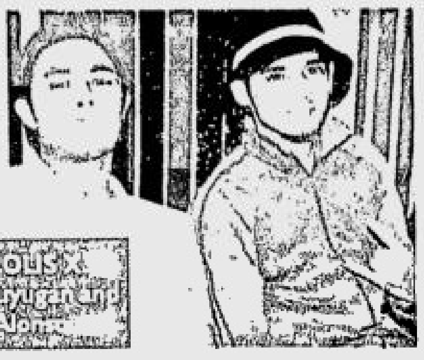
From page D1

BUZZ BUZZ: Phoem Barranda

HOT HOT HOT HERRERAS: Rosario, Vicky and Jon chillaxing at The Lot

MEG MANIACS: MTV VJs Nicole and Colby

AM TO PM: Blanca Gonzalez and Drew Arellano


ANNAPOLIS X: Justin Cuyugan and Steven Alonso

OUR CHOICE: Lil Joey and Miles [illegible]

amazement—it's how they see the world that sets them apart.

I didn't see a single reveler behaving badly—it was all good, clean fun.

Some of them might still be searching for themselves, their goals, their advocacies—but that's what we in the media are here for, to be the big brothers and sisters to guide (hopefully) and enlighten the younger ones to do what is right.

Can you keep a secret?

People often ask me if I get tired of attending the same events and seeing the same people. To most people scanning the society and party pages, the rouged faces and saccharine smiles represent what's fake and escapist.

Perception sometimes plays tricks on us, and even the ones with the best intentions are sometimes prone to misjudgment.

But one must go beyond the surface and really be genuinely interested in what people are deep down.

All of a sudden, the "post secret" blog comes to mind. It's a site where people from all over the world send postcards revealing their deepest secrets.

One person stated, "I used your toothbrush because I could not find mine."

Another one said, "For the first time in my life, I'm actually happy. I'm 28."

And yet another one wrote, "Guess what, mom? My nipples are pierced and you're the only one who doesn't know."

In short, everybody has secrets and the thrill of the chase, whether it is daytime or nighttime, is in getting to know the people around you and having them comfortable enough with you to tell you (or for you to find out) the truth. It's never easy in this world of make-believe, but it's always worth it.

As somebody said, "There's no oil without squeezing the olives, no wine without pressing the grapes, no fragrance without crushing the flower. So when things press you down, Someone up there is taking out the best in you."

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When the Muzik died

Four people are dead, dozens injured. What went wrong with Red Horse Muziklaban?

By Maui V. Reyes
2bU! Correspondent

"WHILE [MY FRIEND AND I] WERE gone, Vernon [Go of Pulp Magazine] kept on texting [my friend] updates—last word we got was one of the gates collapsed. When we got back at around 11 p.m., we saw an ambulance and TV news vans entering the premises. Backstage, some of our organizer-friends confirmed that at least two people died during a stampede that took place within the premises. In the end, Kapatid still played, but everyone backstage was in a pensive mood (or drunk). It all boils down to security. This year, security was scrimped on… I honestly didn't even see more than 10 'bouncers' in the whole perimeter. Hoards of people were rattling the iron gate, while the *barangay tanods* and police (some were shorter than me) struggled to hold the crowd back," —Muziklaban concert-goer's blog entry at livejournal/users

The Red Horse Muziklaban is a series of concerts that features unsigned bands to compete for P100,000, and a recording contract. Muziklaban concerts are held as far as Cebu. Unsigned bands are asked to submit their demos, and, if lacking the equipment to record one, may do so for free at designated demo recording aids. The event made rock stars out of unsigned band Mayonnaise, who last year won the coveted award.

This year's finals were held last Saturday at the Amoranto Stadium in Quezon City. The venue has already housed numerous events, including Pulp Magazine's notorious Summer Slam, and has a reported capacity of 15,000. With acts like Chicosci, Greyhoundz, and Kamikazee playing that night, a highly energetic and rowdy crowd was to be expected.

What wasn't expected was the death of four concert-goers, who were trampled to death when a stampede broke at the gates. Only two of the victims have been identified as of press time: Al-jay de Dios, 16, and Jar-R Greg Sioson, 24.

According to a news report last Monday, event organizer Ricci Fidelino of Station One said that the stampede happened when the crowd outside the gates forced its way to the stadium.

When the author contacted Fidelino for this story, her response was "No comment, sorry."

The event was held only at the center area of the stadium, which stadium manager Andy Apostol calls the "green area."

"The entire stadium can hold 50,000 people, but the event organizers said they were only expecting 15,000," Apostol said.

What went wrong?

Muziklaban last year came and went without a hitch. Pulp Magazine has held three events at the stadium, and managed only a few minor injuries. So what went wrong with Muziklaban?

Apostol said the crowd last Saturday was as rowdy as that in the Summer Slam. "Ninety percent of the audience was wearing black, and they had mohawks," he said.

What probably set Muziklaban apart from Pulp events, according to Apostol, was that the former involved a nationwide series of concerts.

"People came with banners that said 'Cavite' or 'Nueva Ecija.' They rented big buses, and came from far places," he said.

Pulp Magazine's Vernon Go believes it had something to do with security. "I got to the venue before it started, and expressed my concern to Andy when I saw that the security was inefficient," he said.

Penny-pinching on security

Rico Santiago, head of the Professional Bouncers Association, has handled numerous events in the U.S., Canada and the Philippines. He's the first person event organizers from Pulp, NU, MTV, and various record companies call when they need bouncers for events.

Santiago handled Muziklaban last year, but was not hired this year. According to him, Station One hired one of his former bouncers, "Adam," this year.

"Half of the guys they got were tricycle drivers, mechanics and jeepney drivers. They're not trained for this kind of work," Santiago said.

The author tried to contact Adam, who could not be reached.

According to Santiago, an event as big as Muziklaban calls for around 300 bouncers. "It's also a matter of designation. When I do my events, I'm the one who calls the orders. I study the rules of traffic. I make my guys meet with the venue's security a week before the event, to make sure we're clear on protocols, etc.," he said.

Apostol said he requires the organizers' security to meet with the stadium's security beforehand.

Santiago, however, said that Adam admitted to him that his men didn't know what they were doing. "There was no coordination, no security meeting. The Amoranto security was giving orders to the bouncers, and no one knew whom to listen to," Santiago said.

Santiago also said that the security at the gate was charging people who didn't have tickets. Apostol said he was not aware of such activity.

According to Santiago, Station One contacted him beforehand, asking for his rates, and then never got back to him.

"I usually give them a discounted price. For 300 bouncers, I said I'd given them P1,200 per head (he usually charges up to P5,000). Last year, they only paid us P1,000 per head," Santiago said.

Santiago believes that price for a highly-trained bouncer is as cheap as you can get.

"If the gates open at 12, we'll be there at 10. And we stay until 4 a.m. We only take a break to piss and eat. Don't you think that's underpaid? I charge that much because I know I can do the job well."

According to Santiago, Adam pulled together a pool of 200 bouncers for the event, who were each paid between P300 to P800.

"Being a bouncer takes training. It's not about wearing a shirt that says 'bouncer,'" Santiago said. "I know you need to save money when putting up an event. But you have to look closely at security because you're talking about masses of people. Masses of people create tension. You need to know how to handle that tension." Go said that for PULP events, he gets 300 bouncers, 100 tanods, 60 cops, and the SWAT on standby.

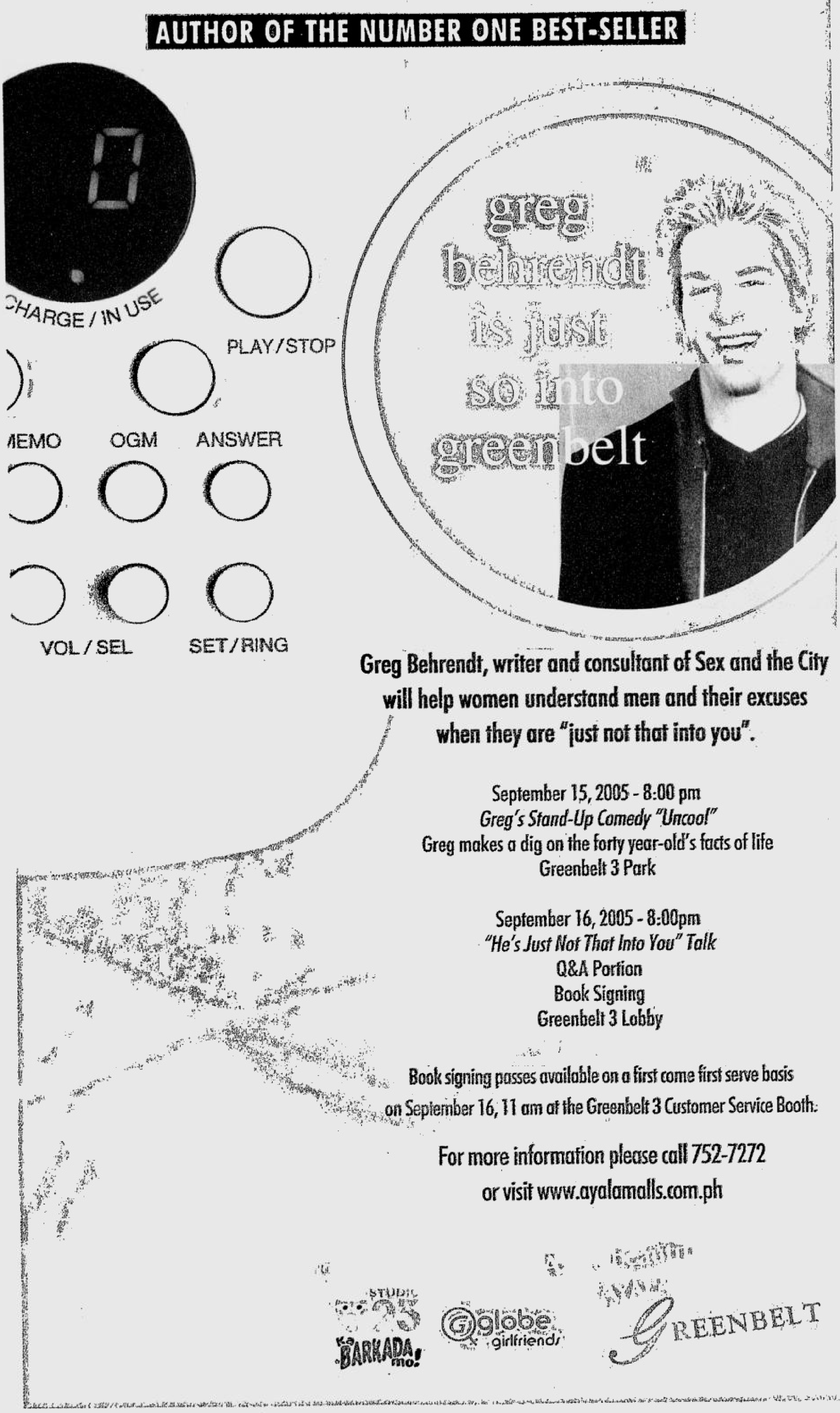
Show must go on

Reg Rubio of the band Greyhoundz was upset to hear the news. "We're constantly being blamed for the crowd's rowdiness," he said. "But come on… never in my life have I told the crowd to go punch or stab each other."

Rubio said he arrived at the venue at around 11 p.m., after the incident. Even after the deaths, the concert went on.

According to Rubio, the organizers told the bands to cut their set list to two songs, because of "reported injuries."

Rubio said he is particularly concerned about young kids who had to get their parents' consent to watch the concert. "They came to watch," he said, "not to be killed."



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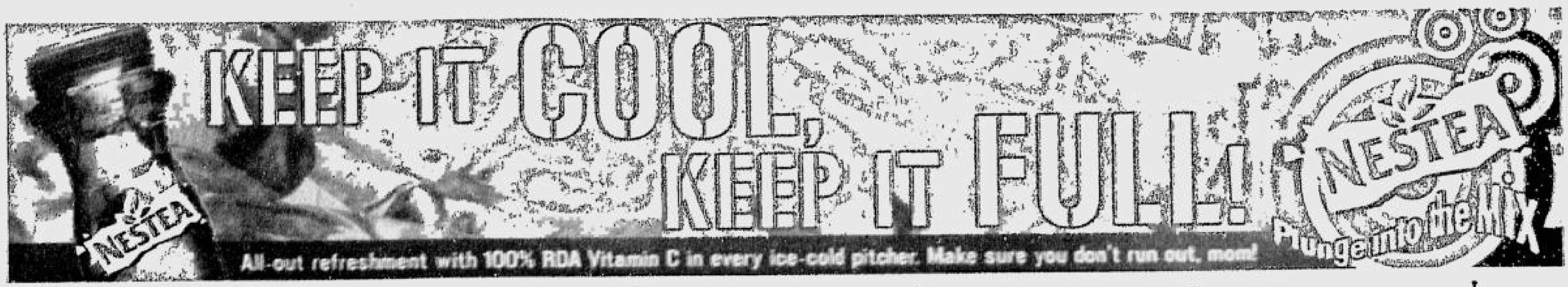

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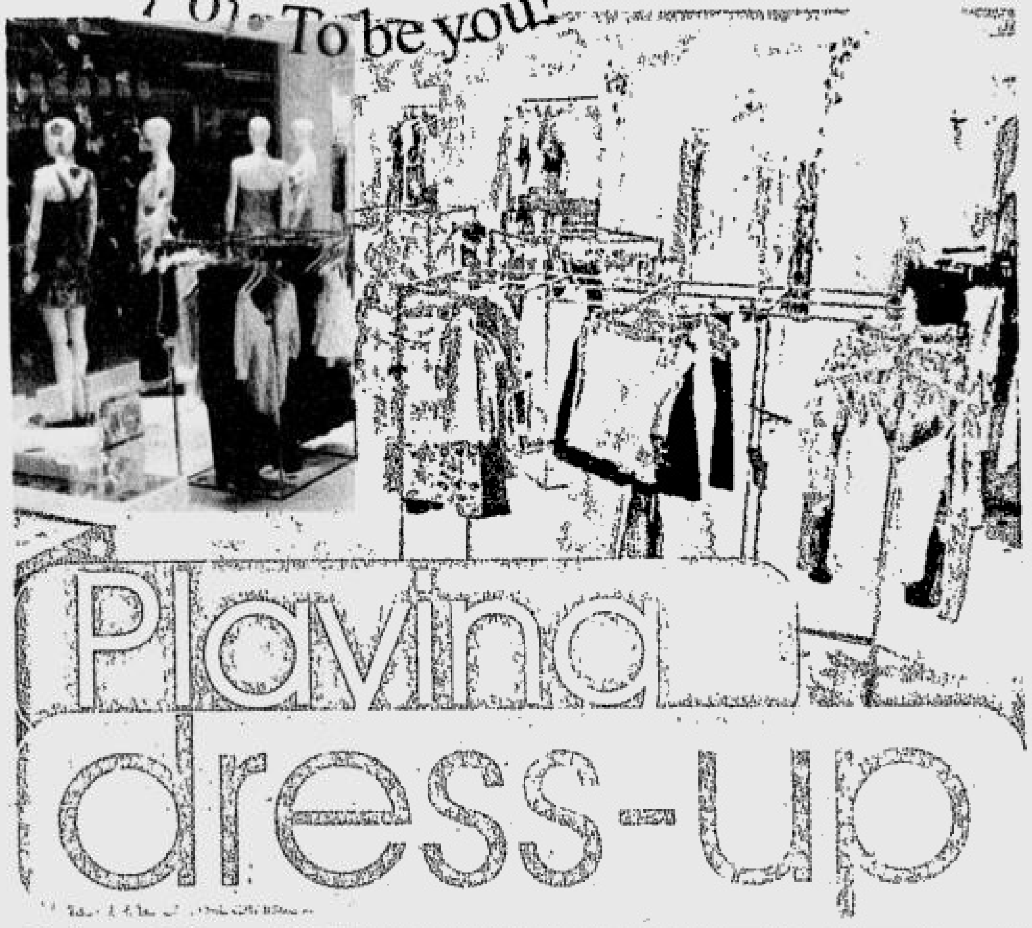

Playing dress-up

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STORY ON PAGE E2

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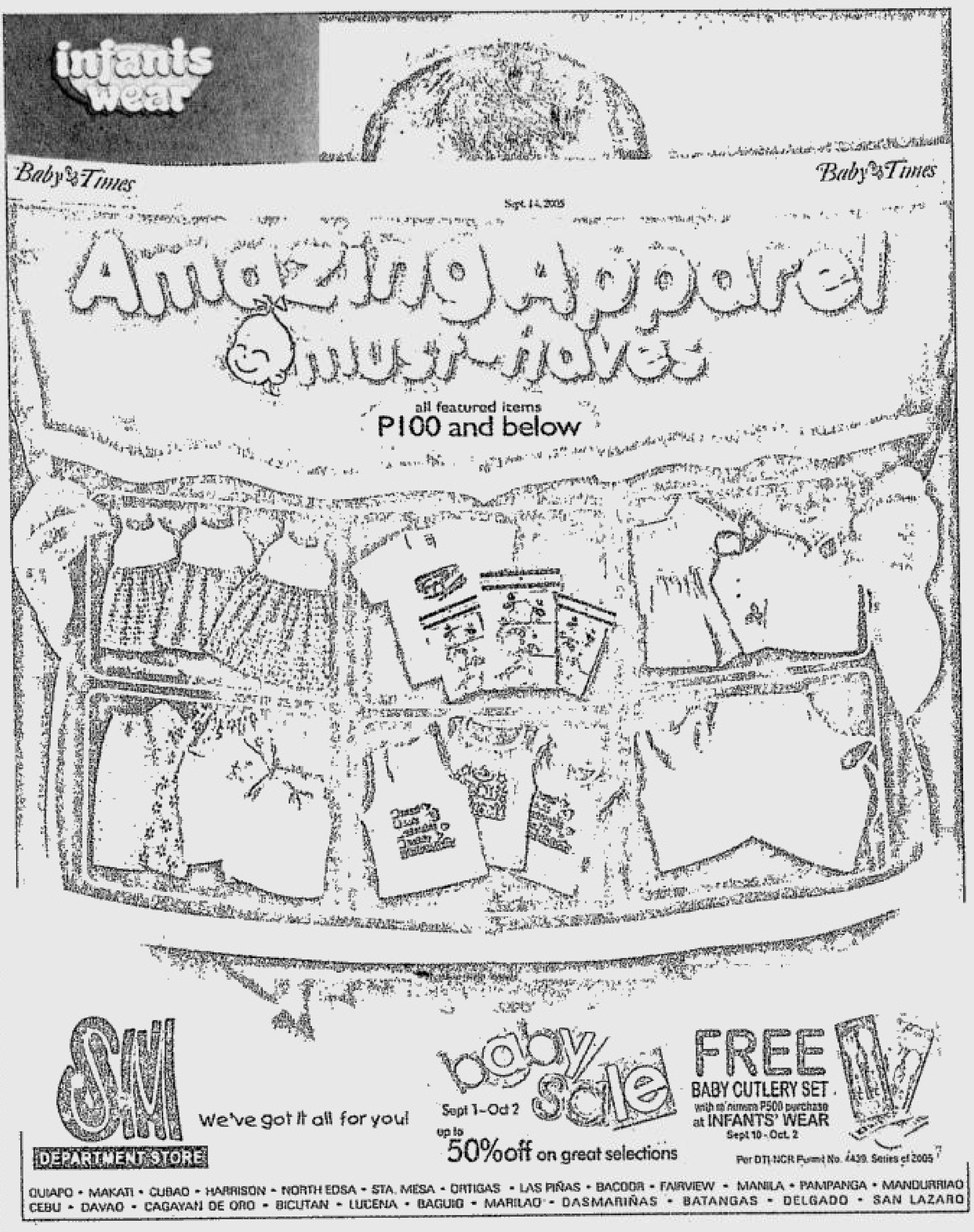

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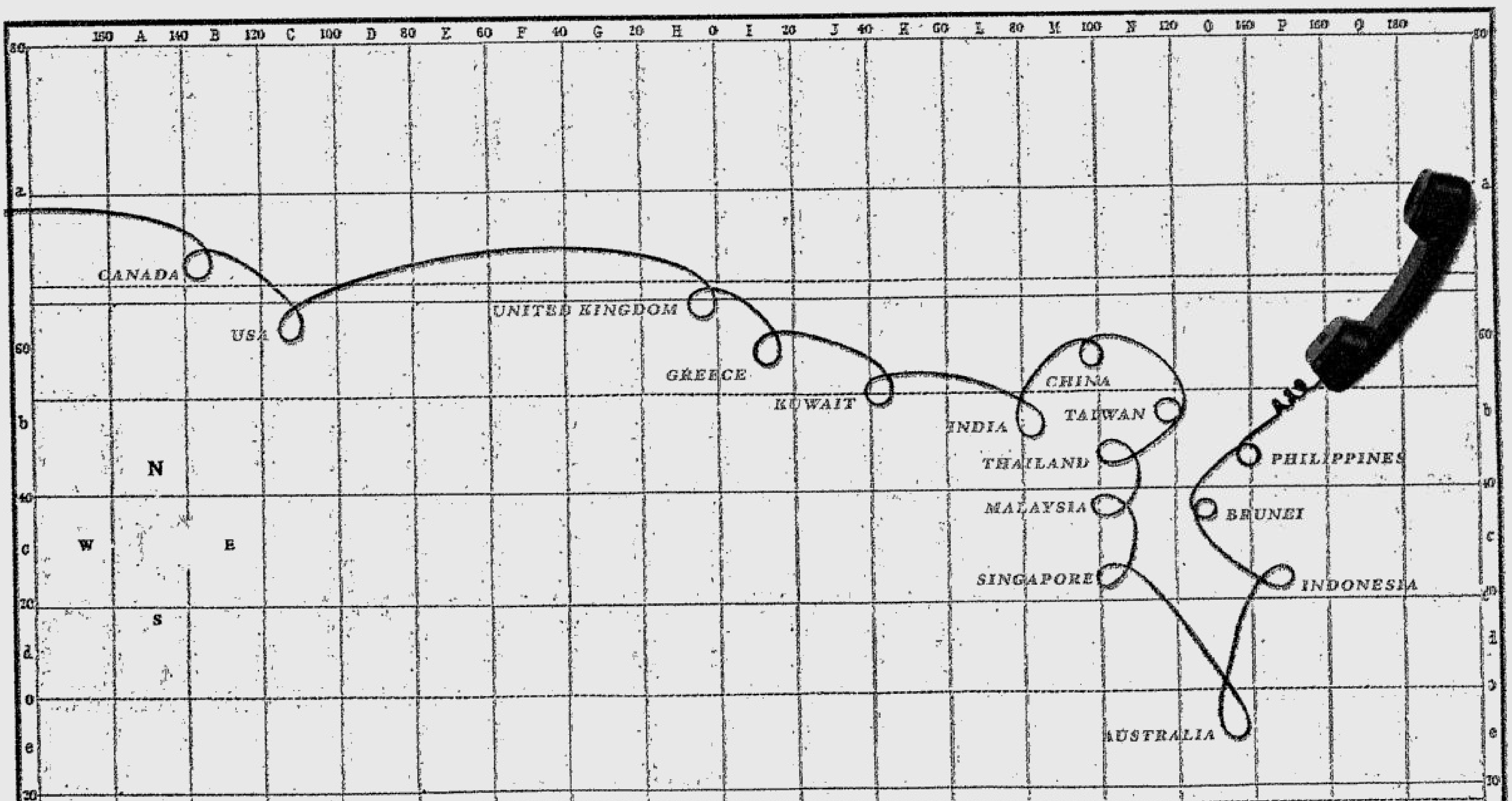

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WHAT: Yellow georgette halter dress (P2,999) with green rose brooch (P349).

Wear it: To the mall or a day wedding.

Modify it: Put a cardigan on for an afternoon at the mall or dress it up with accessories if you're attending a day wedding.

WHAT: Nude sleeveless top (P699), Sao P short skirt (P1,699) and pink rose br (P349).

Wear it: On a hot day.

Modify it: Add a jacket for a movie date.

Playing dress-up

By Pam Pastor

WHY PLAY WITH DOLLS when you can dress life-sized ones?

The Fashion Freaks had a fun Friday morning spent dressing up Urban&Co's mannequins at Glorietta 4, with the help of retail manager Karen Lozon.

Urban&Co, the popular Singaporean brand that's already a hit in Thailand, Malaysia and other parts of Asia, has found a new home in the Philippines since March.

Tailor-made for Asian women

The brand boasts of European-inspired fashion that's tailor-made for the svelte Asian woman. Urban&Co's creative fashion director Rachel Koh says, "Urban&Co is made for the self-assured, self-sufficient woman of today. She's sexy and confident with a healthy outlook on life. It's not about her age, it's all about her attitude."

Since the brand's arrival, many Filipinas have become instant converts, praising Urban&Co for its flattering fit. Some women even buy all colors of the pieces they fall in love with. "One of the great things about Urban&Co is all the pieces can be mixed and matched with our other pieces to create more outfits," Karen says.

Apart from the fit, the brand has also become popular because of its lightweight fabrics and designs that are perfect for our country's tropical climate. And fans of Urban&Co can constantly look forward to fresh things - new lines are released every Wednesday at Urban&Co's three outlets (Glorietta, Shangri-La Mall and Megamall).

The Fashion Freaks played with halter tops, short skirts and pretty dresses in sexy cuts and feminine colors. There are also cropped cardigans, dainty shrugs, classic pants and accessories that you can jazz up your outfits with. The clothes featured on our pages will be available in Urban&Co today.

Go ahead, be your own mannequin.

Urban&Co is located at Glorietta 4 (2/F), SM Megamall (2/F building B) and Shangri-La Plaza Mall (2/F, Crossings). Call 8864781.

WHAT: Blue Sao Paulo tube top (P1,499), short pleated denim skirt (P1,999) and braided belt with detachable brooch worn as a choker (P699)

Wear it: Anywhere.

Modify it: Cover up with a jacket or a shrug on cooler days.

WHAT: Sophia Blush dress (P2999)

Wear it: To a party, on your birthday or on a special date.

Modify it: Wear it with pearls for a more classic look, add chunky accessories if you want to be more edgy or wear it with jeans for a more casual feel.

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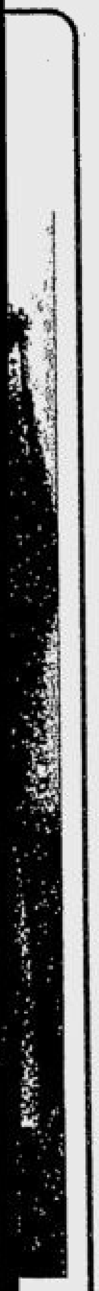

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WHAT: Sophia blush dark pink halter top (P1,699), short cotton skirt (P1,699) and braided belt with detachable brooch (P699)

Wear it: On a night out.

Modify it: Add a pretty jacket or a shrug for a more conservative look.

WHAT: ¾ sleeve striped cropped cardigan with flare sleeves (P1,999), Sophia blush pink halter top (P1,699) and Jenelle cropped pants in white (P2,399)

Wear it: On casual Fridays. Or to a date.

Modify it: Take off the cardigan on a hot day. Or change the pants to a skirt for an even more feminine look.

WHAT: Pink floral Sao Paulo tube top (P1,499), long denim skirt with braided belt (P2,699)

Wear it: To the office on casual Fridays.

Modify it: Trade in the long skirt for a shorter one that would allow you to move more freely if you're hanging out with friends the whole day.

Do you want The Fashion Freaks to visit your store or check out your wares? E-mail us at thefashionfreaks@yahoo.com.

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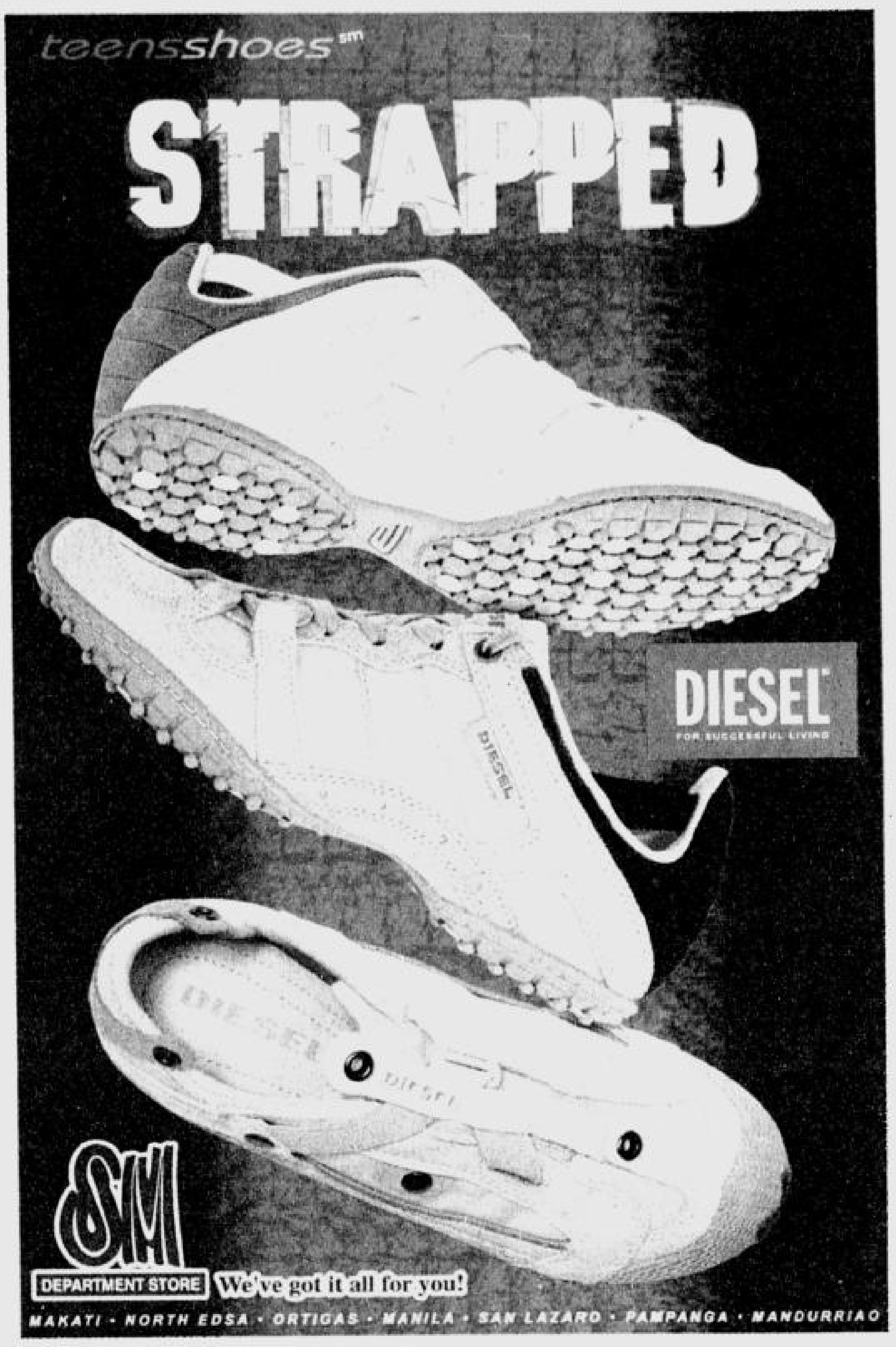

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Dealing with the acne menace

Pimples, blackheads and blemishes—our skin's worst nightmares

IF THERE IS SOMEthing both males and females can relate to, it is acne. It is quite rare to find both genders speak the same language—except when the topic involves pimples, blackheads, and other skin blemishes.

Lora Gabol

Of all skin concerns, acne seems on top of the list. Young people look for the one magic potion, the elusive remedy that will eradicate the skin problem off the face of the earth once and for all.

While that .zit on your nose always seems to be a step ahead of your skin regimen, don't lose hope. Self-diagnosis often leads to hasty product choices, and while this hit-or-miss strategy seems to work at times, there is nothing wrong with getting to the real cause of the problem and finally pulling it out right down to the root.

Usual suspects

Acne can be explained with one simple equation: pore (with oil + bacteria + dirt + dead skin cells) = acne.

What we don't realize is that, like most equations that explain the many complicated phenomena in life (like e=mc2), more permutated equations may be derived from the formula above.

This is why you can be cleansing, oil filming, and disinfecting your skin with no impressive results. If this is the case, you may want to take a closer look at your skin condition.

Sun exposure

Believe it or not, the amount of time you spend under the sun may be the culprit behind those nasty zits that just won't go away.

Many people believe that a good tan is a clever disguise for pimples and acne marks. So they allow themselves to bake without a conscience.

The real scoop, however, says that tans and burns cause the surface layers of skin to shed dead skin cells at a faster rate, sometimes leaving raw skin exposed.

The accelerated sloughing of skin merely increases the likelihood of clogged pores, and ultimately, more acne.

Don't let Mr. Sunshine ruin your complexion—be guarded every day.

Be aware that the bar has been raised, too. The requisite SPF 15 has gone up to a 30 for everyday protection, so be armed with the best armor there is.

Fortunately, for us, supercharged sunblock is readily available. I like the velvety texture of Shu Uemura XTR Protector.

It leaves a beautiful matte finish, and works well as a makeup base, too.

And with a whopping SPF 50, the Protector won't allow those rays to get anywhere near your skin.

Hormonal imbalance

Every month, I have to deal with what I call my PMP, which is just a cute-ified moniker for "post-menstrual pimple."

And it never fails. The day after the main event stops, a little (or monstrous, at times) red bump will appear somewhere on my face.

It's quite forgivable for the hormones to go berserk once a month, but there are a few women whose hormones just can't stop jumping around and damaging the skin.

But while common knowledge dictates that birth control pills may end this dilemma once and for all, studies have shown that some pills available in the market actually aggravate the problem. The poison? Testosterone. A number of brands raise androgenic activity and raise testosterone levels as a result.

Stick to preparations with progesterone and estrogen like Diane 35, or consult with a reputable dermatologist.

Stress

It's no secret. Stress can make things worse. And the stress shows on your face.

Stress worsens acne more than it causes it, sure, but it's not something you can simply ignore.

The technicality lies in, again, your hormones. When stress strikes, your body produces cortisol, which has been long known to trigger acne outbreaks.

So how do we deal? For one, take the tried-and-tested solution with healthy living. Take antioxidants like Vitamin C and Vitamin E, or upgrade with green tea capsules (like popular brand TeGreen, which is said to be 100 times more potent than Vitamin C; the brand is available through 0917-8478118).

A less popular antioxidant, Glutathione (available through 0917-8478118), is usually known as a whitening supplement, but can also help improve skin conditions.

Shu Uemura at Rustan's Makati and Rustan's Tower; Diane 35 at pharmacies (consult your dermatologist); skin antioxidants to order from Janelle Young at 0917-847-8118.

E-mail the author at lora_gahol@yahoo.com or lgahol@pldtvibe.net

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Are you changing the world?

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH HANDS ON Manila Foundation Inc., HSBC will launch the HSBC Faces of Volunteerism on Volunteer In Person (VIP) Day, Oct. 21, at Rockwell Loft, Makati City.

The Faces of Volunteerism recognizes Metro Manila's everyday heroes who in their everyday lives touch those who need them most.

They are those who share meals in shelters, spend Saturdays reading books to sick children in hospitals, or go out on weekends to build homes for the homeless.

The HSBC Faces of Volunteerism also aims to encourage volunteers to innovative ways and means to help others. On VIP Day, the Top 5 HSBC Faces of Volunteerism will be recognized and will receive a P20,000 grant for a volunteer project of their choice.

In a crowd of anonymous heroes, these are the faces that shine the brightest.

If you know anyone who deserves to be recognized, send your entries with the following details by Sept. 30.

1. Name
2. Age
3. School/company/organization
4. Occupation (if applicable)
5. Volunteer experience in the last year. Talk about your:
   a. Organizations/projects involved including contact person/numbers/addresses
   b. Duration/frequency
   c. Activity/task involved
   d. How your service was significant to the project
   e. Why you chose this program/project
   f. How the experience affected you
6. Documentation
   a. 2x2 photo
   b. Certification from community/organization
7. Two references (name, contact information)
8. Briefly describe your proposal project. Please give:
   a. Details of the organization including contact information
   b. Title of the project
   c. Objectives
   d. Project duration
   e. Activities including role of volunteers
   f. Budget

Entries may be sent to HSBC Faces of Volunteerism c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer Bldg., Chino Roces Avenue, Makati City; or Hands on Manila Foundation Inc., Unit LP10 Medical Plaza Makati Bldg., Amorsolo cor. dela Rosa St., Legaspi Village, Makati City or e-mail homla@info.com.ph

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Win shoes for your girl!

2BU! AND MERRELL INVITES you to win shoes for your girl by sharing your experiences in the great outdoors.

Send us a photo of your great adventure (adventure racing, rock climbing, rapelling/abseiling, kayaking, orienteering, bungee jumping, sky diving, trail running, backpacking, mountain biking, camping, mountain climbing or any extreme sports activity—it's up to you) and an essay telling us about it.

Senders of our eight favorite entries will receive a pair of Merrell's women shoes for their favorite girl. We will choose the best photo essay from the eight and the winner will receive Merrell GCs worth P10,000.

If you're male, 18 years old and above, send us a high quality photo of your adventure (not manipulated digitally, please) along with a brief description. Don't forget to include your name, age, address, contact info and the shoe size of your favorite girl.

E-mail your entries to contest2bu@inquirer.com.ph